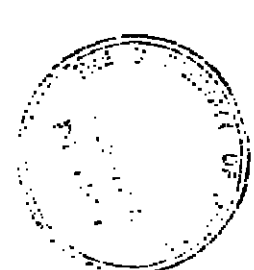




مكتبة الأمل



Jordan denies report on multilaterals

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Monday denied that it has any knowledge that the multilateral Middle East talks scheduled to be held in Moscow towards the end of January are being postponed as reported in a Qatari newspaper. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted an official Jordanian spokesman as denying the report published in Al Arab newspaper quoting Foreign Minister Kamel Abur Jaber as stating that he has received information that the talks were postponed. Al Arab quoted its correspondent in Amman as the source of its report. "The foreign minister has never met the correspondent and never made such a statement," the official spokesman stressed. The spokesman also expressed astonishment at a report by Al Dustour daily newspaper which attributed to the foreign minister's remarks indicating the existence of disparity in importance between the bilateral and the multilateral negotiations. The spokesman said that Jordan was participating in the peace process on the understanding that it is an integrated process aiming to find an honourable and just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question.

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More rain, possibly snow, on the way

AMMAN (J.T.) — A cold air mass affecting the eastern Mediterranean at present could develop into a very deep depression, climaxing Thursday and bringing heavy rain and probably snow, according to the Department of Meteorology. A department spokesman said that Jordan along other countries in the eastern Mediterranean region is currently affected by a shallow depression that will bring rain Tuesday. Heavier rain will start Wednesday in the north, gradually extending to the centre and south of the country. He said there is a chance for snow on the high regions of the country on Thursday. The storm will affect most regions, which will also witness a noticeable drop in temperatures, he said.

Iraqi envoy quits, seeks to stay in Holland

THE HAGUE (AP) — Iraqi Ambassador Saffa Salih Al Falaki announced Monday he had resigned from his post and asked for permission to stay in the Netherlands with his family. "I feel it is impossible to remain silent ... to what is happening in Iraq," Mr. Falaki said in an interview with Veronica news radio. Mr. Falaki, who shunned publicity during the Gulf crisis that resulted from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, said, "I am blaming Saddam Hussein." He did not elaborate. A Dutch foreign ministry spokesman said Mr. Falaki's request for a temporary residence permit was being "positively considered."

Kuwait fears further 'Iraqi aggression'

KUWAIT (R) — Iraq is plotting further aggression against Kuwait and Kuwaitis must remain united to face the threat, Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah was quoted as saying on Monday. "We won a battle but we did not win the war ... the Iraqi regime plots night and day, working to rebuild its army from scratch and seeking to possess advanced weapons," Sheikh Saad told Kuwait's Al Watan daily. He said this was evidence that Iraq, which occupied Kuwait for seven months after its Aug. 2, 1990 invasion, was counting on time to repeat its take over. "Our internal issues should not distract us from the intentions of the Iraqi regime who is still thinking and I say it frankly is still thinking and plotting aggression to destabilise security in the country. We have to face these evil intentions by consolidation of an internal front..."

Lebanese minister in Syria for talks

DAMASCUS (R) — Lebanon's Interior Minister Major General Sami Al Khadhi arrived on Monday for talks on promoting security cooperation with Syria. Officials said he would open talks with his Syrian counterpart Mohammad Harba, who welcomed him on arrival. Later Monday, Syria and Lebanon signed a brotherhood and cooperation treaty last year calling for cooperation in security affairs, especially in fighting narcotics.

Greek premier to visit Iran soon

NICOSIA (AP) — The visiting head of the Greek parliament, Athanasios Tsaldaris, met with Iran's President Hashemi Rafsanjani Monday, and called for the promotion of Tehran-Athens ties, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying he welcomed the promotion of ties between the two countries. Mr. Tsaldaris told Mr. Rafsanjani that Greek Prime Minister Constantinos Mitsotakis will be visiting Iran soon in an effort to promote ties. In a meeting with Mr. Tsaldaris Monday, his Iranian counterpart, Mehdi Karubi, praised Greece for humanitarian treatment of its Muslim minority. Mr. Tsaldaris also welcomed an Iranian proposal for a joint shipyard in the Gulf, IRNA said. It quoted him as saying that an Iranian plan to pipe natural gas to Greece and the rest of Europe would benefit both countries.

U.N. agency halts Sudan flights

KAMPALA (AP) — Heavy shelling of a besieged southern Sudanese city forced a U.N. agency to suspend a one-day-old relief operation aimed at airlifting food into the town and rescuing Ugandans stranded there. A spokesman for the World Food Programme (WFP) said the relief operation into Juba began Saturday from Uganda's airport at Entebbe and was suspended Sunday after a cargo plane carrying 40 tons of food was turned back by civil aviation authorities at Juba's airstrip. The spokesman said the flights would not resume until the situation in Juba quieted.

Bilaterals break impasse, move to real issues

Delegations reach agreement on two-track approach and composition

JORDANIAN, Palestinian and Israeli negotiators have reached agreement on separate Palestinian representation in the bilateral talks, and the accord was quickly described as a "good compromise" that would open the door for further progress in the peace process.

Following the accord, it was agreed that there would be a "General Meeting" on procedure of the three teams at 4:30 p.m. (Washington time) and a meeting between the Israelis and the Palestinians to discuss agenda of the talks. The Jordanians will meet the Israelis Tuesday morning to negotiate their agenda.

The "General Meeting" will replace the plenary sessions that the Israelis had earlier insisted upon; and, according to the agreement reached Monday, it will consist of an unspecified number of Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli delegates (see separate story).

The agreement also stipulates that the "General Meeting" will be held at any one party's request, which has been an Israeli demand as opposed to the Arab condition of such meeting being called by either one of the two "tracks" in (details in separate story).

In complying with Arab insistence, the "General Meeting" will have no jurisdiction or authority over conduct and results reached in negotiations in either track, but it can be called to "discuss" only procedure and issues of general interest to the two tracks but not exclusively pertaining to one track.

Analysts and observers here agree that this could be a contentious point in the future, since any one party can claim that a certain issue does not exclusively pertain to a particular track. But the analysts also say that the other side in a case like this can always — and as easily — disclaim the issue.

According to Jordanian delegates, there is no clause in the agreement that calls for the meeting of the three heads of the negotiating teams. "This has been left out of the deliberations," one delegate said.

The Israelis had earlier envisaged a supervisory role for the three chief delegates, particularly in conjunction with the "General Meeting" sessions as a way of organising work in the two tracks. "What made Monday's accord possible," Arab delegates and observers say, was mutual compromise made by both the Palestinians and Israelis, each for their own reasons.

The Palestinians, along with the Jordanians, had insisted on parity in what was formerly known as the "plenary sessions."

The Israelis had insisted on no more than seven Jordanians and seven Palestinians to sit with 14 Israelis, instead of the initial

From George Hawatmeh in Washington

Arab demand for 14 from each of the Jordanian and Palestinian sides.

It was not clear how the negotiators had agreed on new numbers, but it was possible the formula was in keeping with an agreement reached in the second round on the number of delegates, from both the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, in either track. That earlier agreement called for nine Jordanian and two Palestinian delegates negotiating with 11 Israelis in the Jordanian track; and, conversely, 9 Palestinian and two Jordanian delegates against 11 Israelis in the Palestinian track.

Agencies add: Reaching a deal was regarded as vital to keeping the Middle East peace process launched by the Madrid conference last October on track.

It ended over three months of procedural skirmishing since Madrid, symbolised by the six

(Continued on page 5)

Washington round may be too short to reach substantive negotiations

ARAB-ISRAELI bilateral talks resumed here Monday amid expectations that the current third round will be long enough to strike agreement on separate Palestinian representation but too short-lived to reach the stage of substantive negotiations at which the Arabs aim to arrive as quickly as possible.

While the Syrian and Lebanese delegations tackled issues of substance with their Israeli counterparts during the second round of bilateral talks, held in the U.S. capital Dec. 10-18, negotiations among the Jordanians, Palestinians and Israelis were bogged down over Israeli objections to dealing with the Palestinians as a separate party within the globally-accepted two-track approach for solving the conflict in the Middle East.

The second round broke up in an impasse both over conflicting Syrian and Israeli interpretations of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and Arab opposition to Israel's "objective of diluting

Palestinian national identity," as Arab delegates put it. The third round was supposed to start Jan. 7, but the Arab parties delayed their arrival in Washington until late last week in protest over recent Israeli practices against Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

Just before the Arab delegations' arrival, head of the Israeli negotiating team to the talks with the Jordanians and Palestinians, Eliyakim Rubenstein, had expressed optimism that the two sides would quickly reach agreement on "procedural disputes," meaning Palestinian representation and proceed to discuss agenda for future negotiations, which he had described as the "corridor that leads to substance."

Mr. Rubenstein subsequently justified his optimism by submitting a new proposal in a letter he sent Friday to the two heads of the Palestinian and Jordanian teams, Dr. Abdul Salam Majali and Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi. The proposal was seen by the

Arab side as "a step in the right direction," in which the Israelis had finally explicitly acknowledged their acceptance of the two-track approach and dropped the joint delegation powers that it does not have, being merely an "umbrella" established under the U.S.-led peace process' groundrules for separate Jordanian and Palestinian representation. Under pressure from extreme right-wing elements in the Shamir government, Mr. Rubenstein stated later that there was no change in his negotiating position from the second round. The Jordanians and Palestinians, however, detected in the letter a new language and certain concessions that could be used to break the impasse over the outstanding issue and move to negotiating items on the agenda for the upcoming talks.

Recognising the shift but still weary of Israeli intentions, the

(Continued on page 5)

Algerian Islamists call for fight against poll cancellation

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Muslim fundamentalist leaders Monday accused Algeria's army-backed government of stealing their election victory and urged their followers to prepare for resistance.

"We call on the people to protect their choice and reject all manoeuvres aimed at thwarting their will," said the leadership of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in a communique issued after a closed-door meeting.

The front's communique, in its first official reaction to the cancellation of elections, urged the public to "prepare for all eventualities to save the country."

It did not specify what tactics should be used to counter the State Security Council's cancellation of runoff elections scheduled for Thursday which were expected to give the front firm control of parliament.

Tanks were deployed at key

buildings and intersections in the capital, but the military otherwise kept a low profile as fundamentalist leaders met privately to determine how to proceed.

Fundamentalist supporters had said earlier they were waiting for instructions of what to do if their movement was banned by the State Security Council. The council, which includes the defence minister, the military chief of staff and the prime minister, emerged as Algeria's chief authority after President Chadli Benjedid resigned Saturday.

"We call on veteran fighters, thinkers, religious leaders, senior army officers and soldiers, and sons of the martyrs, social organisations and all who love Algeria to take a stand against this giant of power," said the FIS statement.

The FIS said the authorities had betrayed God and the people in cancelling the elections.

"The president's resignation is

against the constitution. It opens a wide conspiracy to carry out crimes against Algeria and the Islamic project," the statement said.

"The constitutional council's agreement to accept his resignation was an indication that the country is in the hands of an illegitimate giant," it said.

"Faced with this serious situation no individual can remain neutral today ... when the war between the people, their religion on the one hand, and colonisation, its agents and its spokesmen, on the other."

The FIS statement was issued after a secret leadership meeting in an Algerian suburb.

"When the hope appeared after the elections ... the heads of despotism in the service of foreigners struck to cut the electoral process and began liquidating the Islamic project," the FIS statement said.

Diplomats said Mr. Benjedid, who introduced democratic reforms to Algeria, stepped down under pressure.

(Continued on page 5)

Arabs fear possible bloodshed in Algeria

NICOSIA (AP) — Arab commentators and ordinary people Monday voiced fears of bloodshed in Algeria after the elections were cancelled and a military-backed council took power.

Islamic fundamentalists in the Arab World lambasted the action as proof that Western-leaning leaders adopt democracy only when it suits them.

But in the Gulf, where the Dec. 26 victory of Islamic parties in the first round of Algerian elections is believed to have sent shivers down the spines of ruling elites, reaction was muted.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, Iran warned that the Algerian people would not long tolerate an army-backed rule trying to block fundamentalists from taking power.

"We fear a bloody confrontation between the army and the people of Algeria," said Abdul Rahim Akour, a fundamentalist member of Jordan's Parliament.

Mr. Akour, one of the 22 Muslim Brotherhood members in Parliament, said the cancellation of Thursday's voting was "astounding, especially at a time when the Arab World is moving towards political pluralism and democracy."

It reflects that the Arab World is still managed by military dictatorship," he said.

In common with many other fundamentalists, he accused the pro-democracy West — and Westernised Arabs — of provoking the crisis in order to prevent Islamic parties from taking power.

Analysts saw the events in Algeria, touched off by the sudden resignation of President Chadli Benjedid, as a severe blow to hopes that the Arab World could move toward greater democracy.

"The army takeover means a return to a totalitarian regime in Algeria," said Sami Nasser, a Jordanian political scientist. "The events of the last week prove Algeria is not ready for democracy. I believe the same applies for the whole Arab World."

In Cairo, graduate student in Islamic studies Zakaria Saleh said: "Chadli was only interested in protecting his seat, like all other Arab regimes. The front should take power and end the state of emergency."

Asked what should happen if the front were not allowed to do so he said, "There should be an Iranian-style revolution."

Palestinians in the occupied territories were among those predicting that the crisis would erupt violently.

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Israeli military court refuses Palestinian plea to see evidence

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli military judges refused Monday to let five Palestinians slated for expulsion see the evidence against them.

Judge Yossef Highi, head of a three-man military appeal board in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron, said the evidence was secret.

He did release to the defence two nationalist pamphlets allegedly written by one of the defendants, but said the main material could not be revealed because of security.

Armed Jewish settlers outside the court abused Arab defence lawyers and called for their expulsion too.

Palestinians said that without seeing the state's evidence they could not defend themselves against the expulsion orders which all 15 members of the United Nations Security Council condemned in unusually strong terms last week.

The army opened the hearing to the public for the first time in an expulsions case after Israel's supreme court allowed a defence request for open proceeding on Sunday. A second hearing for seven other Palestinians in Gaza was also in public.

A few relatives were allowed

into the courtroom but photographers and most family members were kept outside.

Israel announced the expulsion of the 12 Arabs on charges of inciting violence after the shooting of four Israelis, three of them settlers, in three ambushes in the occupied territories.

During a recess five settlers, three of them totting Uzi sub-machineguns, shouted at Arab defence lawyers as Israeli soldiers stood by.

"I want the expulsion of the lawyers with the others," Baruch Marzel, one of the settlers, said. Defendant Iyad Joudeh said the 12 had no chance of winning their appeal.

Israeli courts have not reversed any of the 66 expulsions since the start of the Palestinian uprising four years ago. A military appeal board advised against expulsion only once, in 1979.

"It is better for the whole world to see this play that is going on here," Mr. Joudeh told reporters. "I think Israel will continue in this madness, the madness of settlements and expulsions."

Mr. Joudeh said the defendants had not yet decided if they would take the appeal to the supreme court if the military board denied it.

Israeli leftists and Palestinians say the expulsion orders were aimed at appeasing settlers who have demanded a crackdown against Palestinians and an end to Arab-Israeli peace talks which resumed on Monday in Washington.

In the Gaza Strip, lawyer Ali Naouq, representing four of the seven Palestinians slated for expulsion, asked the board to call Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defence Minister Moshe Arens and former U.S. ambassador to Israel William Brown to the witness stand.

The judge turned down the request.

The chief judge of the Israeli military tribunal was quoted Monday as accusing the army of abusing the rules allowing the jailing of Palestinians without trial.

Emanuel Gross, president of southern command military courts, said in an interview printed in the daily Haaretz that so-called "administrative detention" was supposed to be an unusual legal step used to prevent violence.

But the four-year Palestinian uprising against occupation

(Continued on page 5)

Lebanon prisoner swap close

BEIRUT (R) — The United Nations is close to arranging a swap of Israeli captives or their remains held in Lebanon for Arabs in Israeli jails, pro-Iranian sources said on Monday.

They said U.N. envoy Giandomenico Picco, facing obstacles in his efforts to free two German hostages held by militants, was focusing on an Arabs-for-Israelis exchange.

"Picco is about to reach a breakthrough by securing the release of Arab detainees in return for Israeli captives or their bodies held by groups in Lebanon," one source said.

The sources said Mr. Picco, who won freedom last year for the last American and British hostages held by pro-Iranian fundamentalists in Lebanon, discussed the swap with Red Cross officials in Geneva last week.

Israel and its client local militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), hold hundreds of Arabs at Khiam prison in a strip of South Lebanon they control and at jails inside Israel.

Security sources in the SLA zone told Reuters Israel and the SLA would release about a dozen prisoners from Khiam during the next two weeks.

Beirut's leading Al Nahar newspaper said efforts were underway to work out a comprehensive swap that would include bodies of guerrillas killed in anti-

Israeli attacks and SLA prisoners.

"Efforts are underway to carry out the whole (exchange) process as a package deal," said Al Nahar, which quoted political and military sources in the security zone in its report.

It said prisoners and bodies would be moved to a neutral country for the handover, which would free Israel's prize captive Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, seized from his South Lebanon home in 1989.

Israel said on Sunday it would trade all its Lebanese prisoners for its own men but was still waiting for information on Ron Arad, the only missing Israeli believed still alive.

"We haven't been the ones to prevent an exchange so far," said defence ministry spokesman Danny Naveh. "We haven't received any information on Ron Arad."

German Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kempner are the last Western hostages held in Lebanon.

Their kidnappers want Bonn to free two Lebanese brothers, Abbas and Mohammad Ali Hamadi, jailed in Germany for murder, kidnapping and hijacking.

The pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), believed to hold eight SLA men and the remains of Israeli soldiers Rachamin Al

Sheikh and Yossi Fink, said over the weekend it was still ready to exchange its captives for hundreds of Arab prisoners.

Hizbollah never says whether its captives are alive or dead: Nabih Berri, the leader of the Amal movement, said on Sunday he was prepared to offer information on two Israeli soldiers in exchange for the release of 15 women from the Khiam prison.

Amal says it holds the remains of two Israelis but there has been no confirmation of the claim.

SLA man joins resistance

Hizbollah produced Monday an alleged defector whom it said fled from the SLA last week and joined its ranks.

Hikmat Sweidan, 26, appeared at a news conference in a mosque in south Beirut.

He said: "I would like to tell my comrades to turn their guns against Israel. Don't fight those who want to liberate your land from Israeli occupation. Turn yourselves over to the Islamic Resistance."

The Islamic Resistance is the military wing of Hizbollah.

There was no sign that Sweidan was speaking under pressure. A Hizbollah official, who introduced Sweidan to reporters, also made an appeal to Sweidan's former colleagues to quit and join the Islamic Resistance.

U.S. fears Afghans might sell Stingers to extremists

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The United States has stopped supplying weapons to Afghan guerrillas, but it is worried about the dozens of sophisticated Stinger anti-aircraft missiles still held by the rebels.

American officials fear the small, easily portable Stingers might end up in the hands of groups elsewhere now that the cutoff of U.S. military aid has left the rebels short of cash.

The shoulder-fired missile is highly sought because it could be used in deadly attacks on commercial jetliners, experts say. There have been reports some Stingers already have been obtained by Iran, which has supported some of the Afghan rebels. Other countries with ties to underground groups have offered to buy Stingers, Afghan guerrillas say.

But Anat Kurz, expert at the Jaffe Centre of Strategic Studies in Israel, said Sunday that if the rebels did start selling Stingers, the weapons would go to the highest bidder. "Ideology will not play a role; this is financial," she said.

The Americans gave the Stingers to help Afghan groups in their war against Soviet forces sent in late 1979 to prop up the communist-style government in Kabul. Western experts say the Stingers changed the course of the war when they were introduced in 1986 by taking a heavy toll in Soviet warplanes and heli-

copters. The last Red Army troops left in early 1989, and Washington and Moscow agreed last September to halt military aid by Jan. 1 in hopes of encouraging negotiations to end the civil war. That has left rebel commanders short of money to pay their troops and they might find it enticing to sell Stingers.

"With the end of aid, the commanders are going to be in great need of money. They'll be trying to make a good deal," said Rahimullah Mojadidi, a spokesman for the moderate Afghan National Liberation Front. They are one of the seven main rebel groups that have been fighting the government in Kabul for 13 years.

Arms dealers along the frontier bordering Afghanistan say they get numerous offers to buy and sell Stingers. The figure most often quoted is \$80,000 a missile. At least 100 and possibly as many as 200 Stingers remain in the hands of the rebels, Pakistani and Afghan sources say. If Washington wants them back, it will probably have to pay, they said.

U.S. embassy officials in Pakistan refuse to discuss publicly or privately which rebel groups got the Stingers, who has them now or whether the United States is trying to get them back.

The Stinger is equipped with a computerized sighting mechanism that locks onto the hot exhaust of

aircraft engines and has a range of five kilometres. Each 150-cm missile is packed in a disposable launch tube, weighing a combined 15.8 kilograms, and several could easily be stowed in the trunk of a car.

"They don't go in a suitcase but they are fairly small," Christopher F. Foss, editor of the reference book Jane's Land-based Air Defence 1991-92, said in London. But he added that are also would need extensive training to fire the Stinger effectively. "You can't just pick it up and use it," he said.

Mr. Foss estimated that about 1,000 Stingers were sent to Afghanistan but said he had no way of knowing how many remained. He said many were fired at Soviet aircraft and others likely were damaged by misuse.

"Unless you keep them under the right circumstances they can get damaged. If you keep moving it up and down mountains it's bound to be damaged," he said.

Abdul Haq, a prominent rebel commander whose fighters are largely concentrated around the Afghan capital, said that for most commanders the possession of Stingers was still more important than money. But he agreed some leaders might try to sell Stingers.

"There's not much of a relationship left with the United States," he said. "These belong to the individual commanders now."

Gulf states want Japanese technology

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Gulf Arab states want Japan to become one of their main industrial partners by transferring high-technology to the oil-rich region, the Saudi industry and electricity minister said.

"The major issue with Japan is to convert it from a trade partner to a major industrial partner," the official Saudi Press Agency quoted Abdul Aziz Abdullah Al Zamil as saying.

Mr. Zamil was speaking on Sunday night after meeting Japan's Senior Trade Minister Kozo Watanabe who arrived in Riyadh on Saturday at the start of a three-nation tour that will also take him to Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Gulf sources in Riyadh say Japan has proposed a meeting with officials from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in February to discuss trade.

They said the GCC, grouping Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE, found February unsuitable and told the Japanese they wanted the meeting in April.

A Gulf Arab negotiating team had two days of talks in Riyadh earlier this month to prepare for trade and economic talks with the United States, the European Community (EC) and Japan.

GCC officials said Gulf Arab representatives would begin talks with the United States on Jan. 16 in Washington and with the EC on Jan. 20 in Brussels but a meeting with Japan had yet to be fixed.

Gulf Arab states, which own more than 40 per cent of the world's known oil reserves, are embarked on major expansion programmes to diversify their income which now depends heavily on oil.

Japan imports nearly two-thirds of its oil need from Gulf Arab producers and Japanese firms are involved in several joint projects in Gulf states.

Mr. Zamil said his discussion with Mr. Watanabe focused on "encouraging Japanese companies to (jointly) invest with the Saudi firms."

Mr. Watanabe said Sunday Saudi Arabia and Japan have agreed to set up a joint venture to build refineries in both countries. The refining agreement, which has been rumoured for months, was finalised during discussions between Mr. Watanabe and Oil Minister Hisham Nazer.

Mr. Watanabe said that in his talks with Mr. Nazer, and in an audience with Deputy Premier Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, he also asked that the Japanese oil concession in the ex-neutral zone — now called the divided zone — be extended beyond its expiry in the year 2000.

The zone is an area straddling the borders of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia containing oilfields that the two countries exploit jointly.

Mr. Watanabe said he did not receive a "clear reply" from the Saudis, but he did get a "good indication" of their intentions based on the mutual desire of the two countries to maintain a good "long-term relationship."

The refining agreement calls for the building of a 300,000-barrel-a-day refinery in Saudi Arabia and a 450,000-barrel-a-day refinery in Japan.

Mr. Watanabe termed his ministry's role in the deal as a "lubricant" to move negotiations forward between the two sides.

The minister did not specify the companies involved, saying the refining deal was between "Saudi Arabia and Japanese oil companies" and that further implementation "would be discussed between the two parties."

Los Angeles doctor on Iraq mission with a bagful of medicine and soulful of hope

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The International community cannot remain passive towards the suffering of the people of Iraq, particularly children, and all efforts, collective and individual, should be geared towards lifting the international sanctions against Iraq, argues an American doctor who has undertaken a one-man mission to the beleaguered country.

"No amount of charity can really help the Iraqi people, whose country is in a position to self-finance their needs," said Dr. Jack Kent from Huntington Beach, Los Angeles. The only means through which "people around the world can help the Iraqis is lifting the sanctions against Iraq," Dr. Kent said.

Iraq has the means to support itself and meet its needs in full if only the trade embargo against it is lifted and it is allowed to sell its oil, he pointed out.

Dr. Kent, 62, who plans to be in Baghdad with a bagful of insulin and syringes, which he says will keep alive at least 200 Iraqi children suffering from diabetes, is not new to "victims of political agendas" — whether in Lebanon, Nicaragua, Cuba, Vietnam or the Israeli-occupied territories.

It was indeed a trip to the occupied Gaza Strip to take a message from the children there to the Rev. Jesse Jackson in 1988 that kept Dr. Kent from being already in Iraq, ahead of the first anniversary

of the Gulf war on Jan. 16.

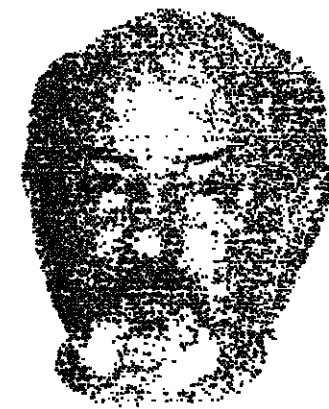
Dr. Kent, who entered the occupied territories through an Israeli airport, had an Israeli visa on his passport and therefore Jordanian immigration authorities stopped him from entering the Kingdom when he flew in Saturday evening.

It took him over 24 hours to get the U.S. embassy to issue a new passport to circumvent the problem, but by then a caravan organised by the American-Iraqi Friendship Fellowship left Amman for Baghdad. Dr. Kent is now awaiting fresh Iraqi permission to enter the country.

Although Dr. Kent is a little disappointed, he remains optimistic that he would be able to carry out his mission and begin work in Iraq on Jan. 15, the birthday of the late American civil rights activist Martin Luther King, one day before the anniversary of the Gulf war which has wreaked havoc in the country of 18 million people.

"Five hundred to 1,000 children are dying in Iraq every day," said Dr. Kent, a Jew by birth. "It is one of the most horrible tragedies of this century, and the world, Americans in particular, cannot continue to remain passive towards this."

Dr. Kent, whose bagful of medicine is worth \$3,000 — raised through contributions — and which he is determined to distribute himself to the Iraqis, described his mission as symbolic and expressed hope that his trip would contribute to raising the awareness of the



Dr. Jack Kent

American public of "what we as a country are doing in Iraq."

"We should not sacrifice innocent lives for political purposes no matter where in the world," said the endocrinologist and a former professor at the University of California, Irvine, medical school, explaining his motivations to involve himself in an issue thousands of kilometres away from American shores. He has visited every region where the U.S. has intervened militarily.

Dr. Kent, raised in a Jewish household in Los Angeles in the 1940s, said he was horrified by the atrocities committed during World War II and dedicated to contributing to efforts to avoid the repetition of such actions.

Dr. Kent's background speaks for itself. He is a member of Rev. Jackson's Rainbow Coalition, the Orange County Committee on Central America, Friends of the African National Congress, the Coali-

tion for Peace and Justice, the Foundation for Scientific Cooperation with Vietnam, the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee and Jews for Jackson.

The bearded physician, whose politics are more left-leaning under Western parameters, believes that the media had not been fair in reporting the actualities of the Gulf war. "They completely side-stepped the human dimensions of the conflict and project the (Gulf) crisis as strictly political," he told the Jordan Times. "The American people have the right to know the realities and then, only then, there will be any movement towards helping the Iraqi people in any realistic way."

Dr. Kent, a short medium-built man who shuns formal tailored suits so typical of doctors in favour of casual baggies, believes that his mission would be successful "with the prayers and the goodwill of the people I have met."

In a letter he wrote last month to Dr. Haider Abdul Shafi of Gaza, whom he met during his Gaza trip in 1988, Dr. Kent called on the chief Palestinian peace negotiator with Israel to speak on behalf of the Iraqi children to the American public wherever possible.

"I'm writing to you on behalf of Iraqi children, 500 to 1,000 of whom are dying every day as a result of the recent war," he wrote. "We can't talk (or even think) of peace while death stalks every Iraqi mother's child."

Sudan seeks Iranian help in oil exploration

CAIRO (AP) — Sudan has sought Iran's help in oil exploration, the Iranian news agency reported Sunday.

It said Sudanese Finance and Economic Planning Minister Abdul Rahim Mahmoud Hamdi made the request during a meeting Sunday in Tehran with Iranian Vice-President and head of the Plan and Budget Organisation Masoud Raghani-Zanjani.

"Hamdi also called for strategic bilateral relations with Iran in view of the Islamic Republic's strong position in the Islamic World," IRNA said in a report monitored in London.

It said Mr. Zanjani expressed Iran's support for the Sudanese government. "He stressed that the pressures imposed by the world arrogance aimed at preventing nations from deciding their own destiny," it said.

The two sides agreed to exchange expert missions to lay the grounds for practical work in promoting economic ties, the agency said.

Mr. Hamdi arrived in the Iranian capital Saturday but details of his visit were not immediately available. Iran, with its exported revolutionary influence waning in Lebanon, is moving to fill a military and economic vacuum in Sudan created by Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war.

Last month, Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani visited Sudan and pledged to put his country's "experience in the fields of construction, industry, rehabilitation and defence" at Sudan's disposal.

"We should have a major role in shaping the future of the world as Muslims," Mr. Rafsanjani said at a rally in the Sudanese capital Khartoum during his visit, the first by an Iranian head of state since the 1979 Islamic revolution. Iraq had long been one of Sudan's few key supporters, which included Libya and Yemen.

Kidney black market is rampant in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Sipping tea in a cafe frequented by people looking to sell a piece of themselves, a tall, emaciated accountant in his 40s explains why he thinks he must part with a kidney.

"There was no other way out. I couldn't find extra work. I owe people a lot of money," he says. "It was either selling my kidney or stealing and risking jail." The man refused out of shame to identify himself.

The Egyptian black market in kidneys is well-organised and the country's medical establishment is moving to crack down on the trade, in which middlemen buy from the poor and sell to the highest bidder.

Beginning July 1, the Egyptian Society of Nephrology will ban the transplant of kidneys from donors unrelated to patients. To compensate for any subsequent organ shortage, they are also trying to push through parliament a law allowing kidneys from cadavers to be used.

The doctors hope to curb a market so robust that the needy often run personal ads in newspapers asking for kidneys, and so organised that donors gather in the downtown cafe to await news of a buyer.

"We couldn't keep our eyes closed any longer," Dr. Rashad Barsoum, the nephrology society's secretary-general, adding that he has even heard of kidney auctions.

The problems lie with a shortage of kidneys, and a plentiful supply of impoverished people willing to take a health risk.

For years after Egypt's first kidney transplant in 1976, transplants between non-family members were forbidden. But the society ended the ban in the early 1980s to allow more transplants.

"It started out as a humanitarian service, but it went too far and simply became a market," said Dr. Barsoum.

As well, economic conditions deteriorated for many Egyptians in the 1980s, making them more willing to sell kidneys. Soon, hundreds of sick Egyptians and foreigners were coming to Cairo for

transplants. Egypt is even drawing customers away from organ black markets in India and the Philippines, where there is more of a risk of contracting AIDS and other diseases.

The trend disturbs the country's Muslim clerics, who hold that while organ transplants do not violate Islamic precepts, sales of organs do. Ninety per cent of Egyptians are Muslim.

The accountant at the donor cafe, which has no formal name, said he went to a laboratory five months ago to have his kidneys analysed for free. When the laboratory finds a buyer, he will be paid about \$4,500 from the oil-rich Gulf states.

The transplant itself costs about \$7,500, plus the price of the kidney, compared with the U.S. total cost of about \$115,000. Every year, Egypt's doctors perform 300 to 400 kidney transplants, half using family member donors' organs, half relying on the black market.

Egypt's doctors first began to take steps against the black market in 1987, when the doctor's union banned transplants from Egyptians to foreigners.

Doctors hope reinstituting the family-only rule will curtail the black market, although they know more kidneys will be needed.

"With this new ban, the need for kidney dialysis will increase dramatically," said Dr. Mamdouh Gabr, president of the Egyptian Doctors' Union. "We need the law allowing the use of kidneys from cadavers to give people another solution."

According to government figures, about 10,000 of Egypt's 56 million people fall victim to kidney failure annually — about three times the rate in the West. Of those, only 2,000 receive dialysis, and 350 receive transplants.

Kuwaiti press welcomes lifting of censorship

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait newspapers Monday welcomed a government decision to lift censorship imposed five years ago, paving the way for election campaigning due to begin during the next few weeks.

"The decision to lift censorship is one step on the road to continuing the democratic process — Kuwait will not have its complete freedom without a free and responsible press," the independent daily Al Watan said in an editorial.

Kuwait's Information Minister Badr Jassim Al Yacoub announced the step on Sunday, following appeals from local journalists and editors.

Laws remain in place allowing closure of any publication which prints articles viewed as harmful

to Kuwait's national interest. Officials say it will be enforced through the courts.

"We hope chief editors will practise self-censorship. The publications law now in effect will be applied," Hamad Youssef Al Roumi, under-secretary at the information ministry, told the pro-government Sawt Al Kuwait daily.

Kuwait's liberal daily Al Qabas welcomed the government decision but said it was not enough. It called for the lifting of a law passed in 1961 which allows the authorities to suspend publication for more than a year of any media organ seen to be serving the interests of a foreign power or harming national interests.

Al Qabas chief editor Mohammad Jassim Al Saqr announced

his resignation from the Kuwait Journalists Association because of a journalistic "code of ethics" it submitted to Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah without his approval.

Sheikh Saad's acceptance of the ethics code, which was signed by most Kuwaiti newspaper editors, preceded the government's decision.

"Lifting censorship is a healthy start to the delicate stage ahead... we could not imagine the coming parliamentary elections being held under government censorship," the Al Qabas editorial said.

"But press freedom will not be complete until Article 35 of publications law — the biggest obstacle — is cancelled," it said.

Kuwait had a lively parliament and its press was the most liberal in the Gulf for most of the years following independence in 1961. Direct censorship was imposed in 1986 after its elected parliament was dissolved.

"If this brave democratic step by the government deserves credit and appreciation it also puts the onus of responsibility on our local newspapers," said Al Anba, a daily which reflects government thinking.

The newspaper said the move posed the question of what kind of press Kuwaitis wanted.

"The answer without hesitation is that we want responsible freedom that conscientiously censors itself and aims at the interest of Kuwait before all else," it said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Arafat addresses Jerusalem audience

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat addressed a Palestinian audience in Jerusalem Sunday in a long-distance telephone conversation transmitted over loudspeakers, witnesses said. Israel bans any form of contact with the PLO. The unprecedented address to 150 journalists meeting in an Arab theatre to protest at Israel's plan to expel 12 Palestinian activists was received with cheers. The overseas location Mr. Arafat spoke from was kept secret. Naim Toubasi, head of the Arab Journalist Association who chaired the meeting, said Mr. Arafat glorified the four-year-old Palestinian uprising, praised its 850 Palestinian victims and talked about the Middle East peace process. He quoted Mr. Arafat as saying: "We want genuine peace but we will not accept the Israeli-imposed peace."

Resignation of Kach leader reported

TEL AVIV (AP) — The leader of rabbi Meir Kahane's anti-Arab Kach movement announced his resignation Sunday, the Israeli news agency Itim said. Rabbi Avraham Toledano was named Kach leader in March 1991 after the American-born Kahane was assassinated in November 1990 while on a U.S. speaking tour. Kach advocates the expulsion of all Arabs from Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Rabbi Toledano told Itim that he was resigning because other members of the movement "systematically opposed my plans and did not allow me to give the movement its appropriate character." He did not say what the "appropriate character" was and he could not be immediately reached for comment.

Kahane's son, Binyamin Ze'ev, broke away from Kach last year to form his own party, Kahane Chai or "Kahane Lives." Kahane Chai congratulated Rabbi Toledano's decision and invited him to join their ranks, a news release from the movement said.

Bomb damages house of British employee

NICOSIA (R) — A bomb damaged the house of a Greek-Cypriot police officer working at a British military base near Limassol, police said on Monday. The officer, Phivos Socratous, and his family escaped unharmed in the Sunday blast in Limassol. A British spokesman at the Episkopi base said Cypriot police were investigating the incident. Britain retains two sovereign bases in Cyprus. The 200-strong police force in both bases is composed, almost exclusively of Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

Ex-hostage Mann III with pneumonia

NICOSIA (AP) — Former hostage Jack Mann became ill with pneumonia Sunday and was flown to a British military hospital, a spokesman said. "He is comfortable and responding to treatment," said Majors Rocky Hitchcock, spokesman for the British sovereign bases in Cyprus. Mr. Mann, 77, a Briton who lives in Nicosia with his wife Sunny, was flown by military helicopter to the hospital at the Akrotiri base on the southeast coast at 3 p.m. (1300 GMT). Maj. Hitchcock said, "The original decision for him to travel by road was overturned on the advice of doctors who considered that in view of his age, speed was essential," the spokesman said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 7311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Les Tortues Ninja
18:30	Marc et Sophie
19:00	News in French
19:15	Varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Evening Show
21:00	News in English
21:30	Titmus Ragnard
PRAYER TIMES	
05:10	Fajr
06:32	(Sunrise) Duha
11:42	Dhuhr
14:28	'Asr
16:52	Maghreb
18:14	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweetfish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624500	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 623583, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771231	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772361	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771757	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
A depression will affect the Kingdom today, making it cloudy and rainy at times. Winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with southerly fresh winds and rough seas.	
Amman Min./Max. temp. 4/19	
Aqaba 2/17	
Djersa 2/12	
Jordan Valley 6/15	
Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 11, Aqaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 87 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:	
Dr. Khalid Mu'addi	743500
Dr. Khalid Abdo	785392
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim	891256
Dr. Ghaleb Zaidieh	736123
Firdows pharmacy	661912
Al Asmaa pharmacy	637053
Nairokh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shadwan pharmacy	637660
IBRD:	
Dr. Radwan Al Saud	(—)
Al Sharaa' pharmacy	(275825)

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630271
Hotel Complaints	625800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	(—)
Complaints	897487
Amman Municipality	858245
Al-Mawdar Hospital	667279
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121

OVERSEAS CALLS

Central Amman Telephone	010230
Reprints	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	689100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	(—)
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS

Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	010230
Reprints	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	689100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	(—)



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday visited Al Zab forest near Jawa and helped residents plant tree saplings. In celebration of Arbor Day.



Day, various government offices and organisations will plant 20,000 tree saplings throughout the Kingdom (Petra photo).

Kingdom prepares for Arbor Day celebrations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arbor Day will be celebrated in Jordan this month, with the main tree-planting ceremony to be held under Royal patronage Wednesday at the police academy in Yajouz.

Azzam Muheisen, head of the Forestry Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the main ceremony will be divided into three sites: at Yajouz, Marj Al Hamam and Al Quds forest in Amman. 20,000 tree saplings will be planted during these three ceremonies, he said.

A total of 10,000 saplings will be planted at the first site, 3,000 at the second and 7,000 at the third, he said, adding that similar ceremonies will be organised in different governorates.

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) is organising a tree planting ceremony in Al Zab forest near Jawa, south of Amman, Monday under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Queen Noor helped officials and residents of the area plant tree saplings.

A statement by RSCN President Anis Muasher invited all people to take part in the ceremony.

Schools to remain closed extra week, minister announces

AMMAN (J.T.) — Private and public schools will remain closed for another week to allow tawjihi students to take a rest after their mid-year examinations which started last Monday and are to run for at least 12 days, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Education Monday.

The announcement was made by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thonqan Al Hindawi, who said that schools which are now closed for the winter holiday will reopen Feb. 1 instead of Jan. 25 as was earlier planned.

The extra time is needed for the tawjihi students to rest after the mid-year examinations and to offer more time for teachers to mark and evaluate the examination papers, the minister said.

Nearly 73,175 students are now taking the mid-year examination,

which was postponed several times in view of the severe weather conditions, especially in the south of the country which was hit worst by the snowstorm in 50 years.

The tawjihi examinations were delayed until last Monday so as to give ample time for the reopening of roads and making the examination halls comfortable enough for the students, Ministry of Education officials said. They said that the examination session was going ahead smoothly and that precautionary measures were taken at various examination halls to deal with an emergency.

Schools which began vacations on Dec. 28 will also close in April for the spring holiday, which normally extends for two weeks, and in June for a two month summer holiday.

Officials discuss scopes of cooperation with Mauritanian ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif received Monday Mauritanian's non-resident ambassador to Jordan Ahmad Wild Sidi.

Mr. Sharif and the Mauritanian ambassador discussed ways of enhancing cooperation between Jordan and Mauritania in informational fields. Mr. Sidi was received Sunday by Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Ali Abu Ragheb. The two discussed means of developing bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation between the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and the Mauritanian National Water and Electricity Company.

They also discussed means of bolstering cooperation in the area of energy and mineral resources. Awqaf and Islamic Affairs

Minister Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi also received the Mauritanian ambassador and discussed with him means of promoting ties in the educational and cultural fields. The two officials also discussed the importance of exchanging expertise between both countries.

Mr. Al Tamimi stressed Jordan's interest in developing and further deepening inter-Arab and inter-Muslim cooperation to counter the challenges facing the Arab and Muslim nations.

Mr. Wild Ahmad was also received by Culture Minister Mahmoud Al Samra, who reviewed with him cultural relations between his country and Jordan and means of developing such relations in the best interests of both peoples.

Impact of wars on workers discussed population

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament was represented at a parliamentary meeting on population and development which ended in Beirut last Saturday and submitted a working paper dealing with migration, and population in the Kingdom.

Parliament member Abdul Karim Al Dughmi, who took part in the meetings, said upon his return here Monday that the three-day discussions covered Arab workers' issues in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis and the question of population migration in Lebanon resulting from the 14-year civil strife in that country.

Mr. Dughmi said that the study, which he presented to the conference, covered the present non-Jordanian workers situation in the Kingdom following the return of hundreds of thousands of Jordanians from Kuwait and other Gulf countries. The paper outlined the extent of damage sustained to the national Jordanian economy as a result for these developments Mr. Dughmi noted.

The meeting has passed several recommendations which will be redrafted and presented to the various concerned countries.

Israel steps up repressive measures, report notes

AMMAN (J.T.) — The past month, which witnessed the start of the fifth year of the Palestinian intifada, the Israeli authorities escalated their repressive measures throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to a monthly report issued by the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs in Amman.

Large areas, including the city of Jerusalem, were sealed off last month by the occupation forces, curfews were imposed on refugee camps and towns and roads were blocked between main cities, the report said.

It said that the stepped up inhuman measures deepened all hopes raised by the start of the peace process in Madrid and Washington in the past year.

According to the report, a total of 91 Arabs were killed by the Israeli forces in 1991 and that 48 Arab homes were demolished. The report said that the Israelis detained 17,261 Arab citizens and deported eight others during the

past year while those in Israeli jails continued to face torture and inhuman treatment.

The report noted that the stepped up repressive measures were clearly aimed at aborting the peace talks in Washington, citing in particular the upsurge in the activities of Jewish settlers, who have been attacking Arab homes and cars, occupying Arab homes and helping the Israeli troops in their campaigns to stifle Arab resistance.

Perhaps the most dangerous action taken by Israel in the past month was the announcement that the settlers will form their own armed militia with full power to carry out repressive measures against the Palestinians anywhere in the occupied lands, the report said.

The report also noted that the Israelis last month confiscated 10,800 dunums of land and allocated \$450 million in the Israeli fiscal budget to create new Jewish settlements on confiscated Arab lands.

Upper House endorses 1992 budget, calls on government to address unemployment problem

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament Monday endorsed with a majority vote the Kingdom's 1992 fiscal budget after hearing a report by its Financial Committee with a number of remarks and proposals.

The JD 1.27 billion budget, which was earlier approved by the Lower House, projects a deficit of JD 107 million compared to JD 351 million in 1991. The government hopes to cover the deficit through foreign aid and borrowing.

Voting on the draft budget was taken in the presence of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Cabinet members, including Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh.

House member Saleh Masadeh read out the Financial Committee's report to the House, referring to the main features of the draft budget, including the government's economic restructuring programme.

The report, presented a number of remarks pertaining to the government's financial and economic policies regarding unemployment.

The committee's report said that the Ministry of Education should introduce measures to increase young people's disposition

for vocational work, contributions to the construction of the country and helping the country become self-sufficient in all trades.

The report also recommended an overhaul of the whole process of education in the compulsory and secondary stages to meet the needs of the local labour market.

The report noted that the creation of the development and employment fund (DEF) was an important tool to carry out development schemes and employ a great number of job seekers.

The report underlined the need for the private sector to carry out small-and-medium-sized income generating projects to help stimulate the national economy.

The report also voiced the committee's satisfaction with the government's national strategy on water resources and plans to develop these resources and harvest the flood water with the help of dams, the construction of irrigation canals and other schemes.

The report referred to the armed forces, voicing the committee's demand to the government to give attention to the armed forces, the people's army and training for young men and

women. It said that such attention to these issues is particularly needed under the present circumstances facing the Arab Nation and to enhance the Kingdom's security and stability.

The report said the committee realises the government's aims about the implementation of the economic restructuring programme and calls attention to the need for all sectors and citizens to fully cooperate with the government to make the economic plan achieve success. The committee said that the government has succeeded in drawing up a sound budget and an advanced economic plan but the accomplishment of these plans cannot be realised by good intentions alone.

The report called on the House to invite various ministries and departments to adopt an austerity programme designed to curtail public spending at all levels and to urge the information services to guide the public in ways to rationalise spending, urge the rich to avoid extravagances and the invest in income generating projects and help charitable organisations.

The report presented the following recommendations to the House:

1. That it endorse the 1992

fiscal budget after taking into account the different remarks.

2. That it express gratitude to the King and for his efforts and directives to the concerned authorities to deal with the consequences of the snowstorm earlier this month, and

3. That it express appreciation to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for his relentless efforts and his contacts with various international organisations to help Jordan overcome its present economic and financial difficulties.

Following the presentation of the report, Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh delivered a speech in which he replied to a number of queries and remarks raised by House members and the Financial Committee.

Mr. Jardaneh's replies concerned the government's water policies, the development and employment fund, the economic restructuring programme, trade policies, industry, agriculture and subsidies of basic commodities.

At the outset of the session, the Upper House referred to its Legal Committee a draft law on money exchange houses in the Kingdom as referred to it by the Lower House which endorsed the draft law on Jan. 8.

Labour Ministry, Chamber of Industry discuss unemployment problem, call for training Jordanians

AMMAN (Petra) — The government seeks cooperation with the private sector and the Amman Chamber of Industry to reach a set of measures to stem unemployment in the Kingdom, Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti said Monday.

Such ambitious plan can by no means achieve success without cooperation with the employers and various businesses, he said.

"We hope to reach an integrated formula through cooperation with the Chamber of Industry in this regard and we hope to get help from the private sector in creating job

opportunities for Jordanian workers," the minister said at a meeting with the president and board members of the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The meeting was called to discuss labour related issues and ways to stimulate economic business in the country.

The prime minister has decided to set up a ministerial committee to be entrusted with dealing with labour issues and their relations with the development process in Jordan, the minister announced.

He said that the committee will first conduct a survey on the present labour situation before presenting recommendations

to the government about the most appropriate solutions, taking into account a memorandum submitted to the minister of labour earlier by the Amman Chamber of Commerce about non-Jordanian workers employed in the country.

The government, represented by the Ministry of Labour, and the Amman Chamber of Industry are to conclude a deal and sign a joint declaration about their agreement on means of dealing with the country's needs of workers and industrial inputs, the minister said.

Mr. Kabariti said that the

Labour Ministry and the Chamber of Industry are to set up a joint committee grouping representatives of the concerned sector as well as the Vocational Training Corporation to study the country's needs.

The Labour Ministry will continue to hold meetings with the chamber to debate these issues since nothing can be achieved without close cooperation, Mr. Kabariti said.

The minister noted that the Labour Ministry's labour survey will be conducted at the national level with the purpose of defining the extent of the unemployment problem.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan establishes relations with Seychelles

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet decided Sunday in a meeting held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to exchange diplomatic representation with the Seychelles. Jordan had previously agreed to establish diplomatic relations with the Seychelles.

Minister meets Philippines' ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti received Monday the Philippines ambassador to Jordan and discussed with him labour relations between Jordan and the Philippines. Mr. Kabariti and the ambassador also discussed labour law violations committed by Philippine workers in Jordan.

Irbid communications reviewed

AMMAN (Petra) — Communications Minister Jamal Al Sarairoh and Irbid Governor Fayed Al Abbadi discussed Monday the communications situation in the Irbid Governorate. Mr. Sarairoh stressed the ministry's keenness to develop communications services in all parts of the Kingdom. The minister was briefed by Mr. Abbadi on the governorate's demands and needs. Mr. Sarairoh later inspected the transport and communications departments in Irbid and was familiarised with work procedures there.

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Any hope for refugees?

PALESTINIANS, Lebanese, Kurds, Cambodians, Vietnamese, Somalis, Ethiopians and many other peoples share one thing in common. Either through war or some form of political upheaval in their home countries, many of these people have been forced to flee their homes to other places. As the "new world order" slowly takes shape, many problems around the globe are coming into focus. Yet one that continues to be fuzzy, either because it has not been addressed or the answers provided leave much to be desired, is that of the plight of refugees around the globe. As the Gulf crisis, war and the resulting upheaval in northern and southern Iraq so clearly demonstrated, political fallout from national and international confrontations usually results in the mass displacement of people. These people, as they struggle to escape the bloodshed and havoc, usually look to foreign countries and international bodies in their times of need.

As His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said in his speech Saturday to the conference on population movements, food crisis and community response, the present international system for dealing with problems of this nature is inadequate, slow and incomplete. Attempts to strengthen and coordinate international response to such crises, like the creation of a special post in the United Nations, leave many questions unanswered. The problem with such an office, as the Crown Prince pointed out, is that it remains open to political tampering by the major powers. As the entire United Nations was so deftly manipulated by the United States in forcing through the resolutions that eventually enable it to wage a war of immeasurable costs in lives and resources, so could this new position be manipulated.

Furthermore, the occupier of the position has at his or her disposal a mere \$50 million fund to be used on dealing with future crises caused by political upheaval. The problem with this approach is that it does not address the basic question. No amount of money can solve the types of problems mentioned here if an adequate infrastructure is not in place. And simply stated, the present mechanisms created to deal with such problems are inadequate. Problems of mass human suffering such as these clearly require an answer that will minimise the suffering while at the same time ensuring that peoples' dignity and nations' sovereignty remain intact. More importantly, these problems must be addressed not through the politically-tinged lenses of the major powers, but through the crystal clear vision of a major international body which holds the promise and expectations of fulfilling one of man's major objectives — dealing with problems in a fair and balanced way.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Monday described the prime minister's plans for reforming the public administration system as a revolutionary strategy designed to modernise the administration of the country with a view to ensuring continued development. Noting that the country is facing numerous challenges at all levels, the paper said that the civil service should be regarded as a national duty rather than as a mere source of income and hence employees ought to be more competent and should present a more productive performance for their nation. The paper praised the prime minister's ideas, linking them to another government policy statement, paving the ground for and accompanying cultural reform programme and the economic restructuring plans in the Kingdom. The paper said that the kingdom can by no means protect its previous achievements nor can it forge ahead towards further levels of progress without overhauling the public administration system which is rendered ineffective due to its numerous loopholes and flaws. The paper said that Jordanians have long waited for such a move to put an end to prevailing conditions plaguing the public administration system that should cater to the needs of the country's socio-economic development under democracy. The paper also welcomed the idea of holding to account all those failing to carry out their duty or shirking their responsibilities and rewarding those excelling in their performance. It said that the government can ensure the implementation of such ideas through new legislations and through specialised bodies which can carry out inspection and monitoring on the performance of the public administration system in the country.

THE RESIGNATION of the Algerian president has opened the door wide before all possible divisions in the ranks of the Algerian people and internal conflicts, said Al Dustour daily Monday. We are holding our breath for fear that serious developments in Algeria could undermine the stability and security of that Arab country that has offered a million martyrs in the course of struggle for independence, said the daily. The paper said that only through a policy characterised by reason and wisdom can the Algerian people overcome the present predicament in their struggle to achieve democracy and political pluralism. Only through dialogue and cooperation can the various parties prevent a general chaos and disturbances in the wake of the president's resignation and the cancellation of the general elections, the paper added. Algeria, said the paper, now stands at crossroads and at the threshold of an unknown future, and if the door is open to disturbances and chaos, the nation will be lost.

The View from Fourth Circle

The Arab World: one year after the Gulf war

By Rami G. Khouri

ONE year after the start of the Gulf war, the political landscape of the Arab World remains scarred by the same problems and tensions that plagued it before the war. Because our basic underlying problems have not been addressed or resolved, our region is still driven by the same grassroots political forces that prevailed before the Gulf crisis. The war simply highlighted and heightened those political forces. Well before the war, centrifugal forces of grassroots anger and humiliation were slowly separating the political culture of the Arab World into two distinct camps:

a) The first was the autocrats, those Arab states that relied on money, militarism, and mind control to maintain a political and economic order that was more beneficial to the West than it was to the Arab people themselves. This camp corresponds almost exactly to those Arab states that joined the American-led coalition. Its throbbing heart is the oil fields of the Gulf, and its appendages reach deep into Arab societies that fear to give their own people freedom, but are unable to give them security, sufficient food and jobs, or minimum dignity.

b) The second camp was the young democrats, those Arab states that have learned the limits and the failure of autocratic ways and of imperial connivance with the West. The Arab young democrats, usually under the pressure of home-grown Islamic fundamentalism or citizens demanding political and human rights, have started a transition to democratic pluralism. Such a transition is most visible today in Jordan, Algeria, Yemen, and, to lesser degrees, in Lebanon, Tunisia, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, and other Arab states. It reared its head briefly in Sudan and Kuwait, and will soon continue to spread to the rest of the Arab World.

To put it in the mercantile language best understood by the West, the marketplace of Arab nationalism and identity has fully discounted the Gulf war. We have digested its political impact, paid its economic cost, and resumed our indigenous quest for an Arab political order that is more authentic, representative, responsible, just, stable, and durable. With the Gulf war now forgotten and essentially meaningless in lasting political terms, the battle for the soul of the Arab World has been re-engaged. The battle is between local warriors — Arab autocrats and democrats who offer their people radically different visions of the future.

The autocrats wish to maintain the region in its present configuration, preserving the failed Arab political and economic order that was made by European colonial powers in the 1920s, and since preserved by the neo-colonial fury of the American-Israeli combine and its autocratic Arab adjuncts. This order has seen at least two thousand billion dollars transferred to the Western industrialised states during the past several decades, in the form of bank deposits and investments, contracts for goods, services, arms, and food, and, most recently, rental fees for Western armies and protection services.

The young democrats wish to define a new and more humane Arab order that responds to the needs of the Arab people, rather than to the commercial interests of Western corporations and the personal fortunes of our self-imposed Arab power elite. We wish to see democracy, pluralism, freedom of thought, respect for human rights, and accountability of public officials instituted as the operative, contemporary political principles of our rich and

ancient culture. From such a base, we can tap our energy, resources, and creativity to deal with our real problems — the challenge of Israel, growing shortages of food and water, extraordinary dependence on foreign commodities, deep economic distortions and structural weaknesses, a national psyche disoriented under the impact of domineering foreign cultural norms, and the sad juxtaposition of world's highest rate of militarism and the world's lowest degree of security and stability.

Islamic fundamentalism has been the single most powerful expression of Arab discontent and the quest for a better future, and democratic pluralism the most popular and effective means of replacing the old autocratic order. When the two come together, they herald swift and significant change. The massive victory of Islamic fundamentalists in Algeria, and their high political profile in Jordan, Yemen, Egypt, Tunisia, Sudan, Lebanon, and other transforming Arab lands, confirms that Islam will remain the principal means by which ordinary Arabs can hope for a better life, challenge injustice, and achieve the moral order they seek.

The future relationship between Islam and Arab democracy is not clear. It may be pluralistic, tolerant and gracious, as largely pertains in Jordan today, or it may be violent, fearful, and mistrustful, as pertain in Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt and other Arab states. Many Arabs, especially women, fear the fervour of Islamic fundamentalists controlling majority political power. Others do not. Islam may use democracy as a means to absolute power, or it may find that it was used by the people as a protest vote, and as a means to make the transition to pluralism and democracy. We will find out during the middle years of this decade.

The decisive Islamic victory in Algeria is probably the most important indigenous political development in the region since the overthrow of the Shah of Iran in 1979. It confirms that people can muster the power to change an unresponsive political order, and that politicised Islam remains, for now, the primary force for such change in the Middle East. It is no wonder, therefore, that the leaderships in Tunisia, Morocco, and Egypt are frantically trying to suppress their Islamic political groups, as several Arab autocratic states have already done. It is only a matter of time before the political systems in states such as Iraq, Syria, Libya, Mauritania, and Djibouti also succumb to grassroots demands for more democratic rule. This process will take time, but it has started, and cannot be stopped.

Equally significant are two developments in the oil-rich Gulf region. The first is the birth of the democracy movement in Kuwait, which comprises Islamic, pan-Arab, and non-ideological, pragmatic groups seeking dignity commensurate with their material wealth. Their constituency was enlarged by the shame, waste, and suffering of the Gulf war, and in the run-up to the October parliamentary elections they will reassert their demands for a more democratic system.

As the emotional frenzy of the Gulf war fades into history, the human and political distortions of Kuwait and the rest of the oil states will emerge more clearly, and they will have an impact on the political changes that will take place in the Gulf. Our history and culture are powerful, proud, and merciless. Leaders and countries that wrap themselves up in American and British flags cannot expect to do so without paying the cost. Ask the Kurdish leaders who this week again accused the West of forgetting them. The Kurds keep forgetting that the West travels to Dohuk and Zakho with great speed when it needs the Kurds for short-term

political chess games, but it forgets about the Kurds and their needs when the chess game is over, or simply suspended. Or, better yet, ask the Shah — or his children in Paris and Geneva. Or ask Jafar Numeiri, or Mohammad Siad Barre.

The second important development in the Gulf was the opening on Jan. 4 of the new, semi-elected consultative council in Oman. This is a small but telling harbinger of the inevitability of democratisation in the oil-rich states, complementing the democratisation already underway in most of the poor but populous northern tier Arab states. Oman is the odd man out in the Gulf, rich and small but nevertheless still clinging to its identity and dignity, conscious that material wealth alone cannot satisfy its people's urge for a decent life. Kuwait, Oman, Yemen, and Jordan are links in a still fragile chain for democratisation that is slowly encircling the old ways and the tired men of the Arabian Peninsula — a chain that can be interrupted, or slowed down, or temporarily obstructed, but never destroyed, because it is being hammered in place by the wishes of tens of millions of Arabs seeking a better life. The Arab oil oligarchies and their Western rent-army guards are slowly being encircled by the only force that can overwhelm their money and their guns: the will of the people. It makes you wonder: if Benjamin Franklin and George Washington were around today, on which side of the circle would they stand — with the people, or with King George? Funny thing, this history. If you ignore it, or defy it, it comes back and kicks you in the ass, just as you thought you were just on the verge of launching a new world order.

In the Middle East, though, the old order is still stubbornly hanging on, but not for long. Saudi Arabia, feeling limited but real grassroots pressure for a more participatory and less oligarchic system, will soon launch its own consultative council, and other Gulf states will follow. They have no other options. The old order has failed, and is doomed, in Arabia as it was in Bucharest. Saudi Arabia and others can maintain their systems for a while longer, because their massive financial resources and political alliance with conservative religious forces will help them preserve their control of political and economic patronage. In time, their people will learn that they cannot live by bread alone, and they, as some have already started to do in Kuwait, will ask for dignity along with their dollars.

All these forces for change first asserted themselves over a decade ago, in the late 1970s, when the gross economic distortions of the post-1973 oil boom began to erode the composure of psyches, the stability of households, and the viability of states throughout the Arab World. They picked up steam throughout the 1980s, and exploded onto the regional stage during the Gulf crisis in the form of frenzied anti-Americanism and opposition to Western military intervention. With the news peg and emotional fulcrum of the Gulf war now well forgotten, these native forces for change are once again working to create a new and better Arab order. They will determine the future of the Arab World.

Editor's note: A shorter version of this article was internationally syndicated this week through the Global Perspectives service of the Los Angeles Times syndicate. Some of these themes are treated in more depth in Mr. Khouri's forthcoming book, *Lines in the Sand: The Roots of Arab Anger and the Future of the Middle East*, to be published this spring by Lawrence Hill Books, New York.

Israeli settlements — how are they funded?

The following article is reprinted from a briefing paper of "Settlement Watch," a research and education project on Israeli settlement and land confiscation policy.

THE \$10 billion in housing loan guarantees to Israel, entering new discussion in the U.S. Congress, raises again the question of Israeli settlement in the occupied territories and its impact on Palestinian human rights as well as prospects for a just resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Arab states as well as the Palestinians oppose these loans because they fear that the funds will be funneled, directly or indirectly, into Jewish settlement in the occupied territories. This settlement involves confiscation of Palestinian land and threatens hope for a peaceful resolution by eliminating the basis for a territorial compromise.

The Leahy compromise

A recent proposal by Senator Patrick Leahy (Democrat from Vermont) has suggested a compromise: that the amount of the loan guarantees be reduced dollar for dollar according to Israeli government spending on settlement in the occupied territories. However, this proposal faces severe difficulties.

Even a brief survey of Israeli settlement spending practices makes clear that it is a complex picture, involving myriad of governmental, semi-governmental and private institutions. This little-understood system, often maintained out of public view and even under official secrecy, is not easily observed or monitored by outside interests.

The Israeli government assigns much of the responsibility for settlement activities to the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organisation (WZO). By implementing settlement outside the government structure, the Jewish Agency/WZO provide the Israeli government with plausible deniability in regard to settlement spending and promotion. They also provide a cloak for spending. No restrictions have been suggested that would limit the Israeli government's channeling settlement funds to these institutions or one of their front companies. Nor would these organisations be likely to accept monitoring of their finances or restrictions on their activities.

The Leahy compromise would require that outside observers assess actual settlement spending by all agents, but this is difficult. Contradicting government reports, Knesset members Dedi

Zucker and Chaim Oran have estimated the cost of Israel's current settlement construction programme at \$1.47 billion (25 per cent of Israel's total housing budget). They estimate \$50 million for industrial development and \$21.7 million for road construction. If Israel's \$10 billion in loan guarantees is spaced over a five-year period, as some propose, settlement spending already exceeds the \$2 billion annual installment.

Settlement in the occupied territories can be stopped only by imposition of a complete freeze — no new settlements, no expansion or construction of any kind, no further Jewish settler immigration — can the U.S. or the international community be sure that the incremental annexation of the territories has stopped, and that the framework for a stable peace resolution is preserved.

Assessing the amount

Many Israeli governmental and non-governmental institutions channel funds to Jewish settlement in the occupied territories. Not only the Housing Ministry but many other ministries are involved. Millions of public and private dollars are funneled through settler councils, private front companies and especially quasi-statal organisations such as the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organisation.

(a) Ministries

Government ministries fund settlement both directly and through front companies. The Peace Now Settlement Watch Team (not affiliated with Settlement Watch-Washington) assessed spending on settlement in the occupied territories (not including East Jerusalem) by the Israeli government in 1990 as follows:

Ministry of Housing...	\$550 million
Ministry of Industry and Commerce...	10.5 million
Ministry of Agriculture...	20 million
Ministry of Absorption....	10 million
Ministry of Education....	35 million
Ministry of Interior....	20 million
Ministry of Religion....	3 million
Ministry of Tourism....	0.5 million
Total.....	649 million.

(b) Jewish Agency/World Zionist Organisation

Tens of millions of dollars are

channeled by the Israeli government through the "private" auspices of the Jewish Agency, WZO and Jewish National Fund for settlement projects. This is an arrangement established by Israeli law, which gives these organisations the authority to organise and implement settlement in "Greater Israel."

For example, in 1991, the WZO spent \$40 million on Jewish settlement in the territories, an amount equal in that of the Housing Ministry.

These institutions in turn pass funds to front companies — such as the Jewish National Fund's purchasing company, Himanuta — which use the funds to purchase property and land.

The WZO also gives tens of millions of dollars to the settler regional councils, which administer spending on settlement services and infrastructure.

The resulting funding picture can be quite complex.

For example, the construction of Jewish neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem has involved millions of dollars channelled:

— as free land grants to settlers by the Custodian of Absentee Property;

— as loans from the Housing Ministry through loan programmes for young couples and special needy cases;

— as funds for land purchase through the Ministry of Justice, through the ministerial committee for unclaimed legacies, totalling approximately \$3.3 million;

— to religious movements by the Ministry of Religion.

In the recent case of the violent takeover of Palestinian property by Jewish settlers in the Silvan neighbourhood of Jerusalem, the settler movement El Ad received part of its funding from the Housing Ministry via the Jewish Agency. Money for Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem was also channelled by the Israel Land Authority and the Jewish National Fund subsidiary company Himanuta, and through the Company for Reconstruction of the Jewish Quarter.

Industrial development

In the first half of 1991, the Ministry of Trade and Industry certified fifty-two industrial projects to serve Jewish-only settlements in the occupied territories, at a total value of \$45,697,000.

In addition, Israeli industries located in the occupied territories receive a variety of incentives, including grants, low-interest loans, state loan guarantee and tax reductions. Industries in the occupied territories are entitled

to state grants at 38 per cent of total investment. Tourist enterprises such as hotels receive a 20 per cent grant. State guarantees are granted at 33 per cent of the programme or by direct grants, the latter totalling an additional \$10 million in 1990. Approved industries are exempt from income tax.

Roads

The Housing Ministry has allocated about \$12 million for paving special roads to serve Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. However, WZO and Ministry of Defence spending adds millions more to this figure.

The funding network

The interplay of governmental and non-governmental agents in settlement funding can be seen in published plans by the Jewish Agency, the parastatal organisation which designs and supervises settlement in Israel. Administratively closely linked to the World Zionist Organisation, the Jewish Agency is technically responsible for settlement inside Israel while the WZO is responsible for settlement in the occupied territories.

In "Suggested Projects with Participation of the Jewish Agency Settlement Department," a 1988 plan now being implemented to establish a cluster of settlements in the northeast of West Bank, the Jewish Agency details the proposed (and evidently routine) transfer of funds from the government to the WZO Settlement Division, and funding cooperation with the settler regional council and various government ministries. Note the "private" funding agents:

Reihim C.: "In all, the project will cost \$1,900,000. The bulk of this amount — \$1,550,000 — is to be provided by the State of Israel through the (World Zionist Organisation) Settlement Division, and the rest by the Ministry of Housing, the Public Works Department, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Jewish National Fund, and the regional (settler) council, depending on the particular item."

Hinanit: "The acquisition of land for construction of about 80 housing units will cost about \$2,500,000. It is proposed that the (WZO) Settlement Division cover \$100,000 of this amount, the rest to be obtained from the Ministry of Housing, the Jewish National Fund, etc."

Regional Industrial Zone: "It is proposed that the Settlement Division provide one half of the land preparation costs, i.e.

\$300,000; the rest will be obtained from Industrial Buildings Company. The connection of utilities will be funded by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Ministry of Housing. Another necessary measure is the construction of 1 kilometre of internal site roads at a cost of \$125,000, to be funded by the Settlement Division. In all, the project will cost \$825,000. It is proposed that the government cover \$425,000 of this amount through the Settlement Division and that the rest be obtained from the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and Industrial Buildings Company.

Expansion of Regional School: "The whole project will cost \$450,000.... It is proposed that the government participate with \$150,000 in the above investment through the Settlement Division, the balance to be obtained from the regional (settler) council, the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Education."

Development of the Umm Reihim Nature Reserve: (Total cost, \$207,500) "The following funding is proposed: \$50,000 by Settlement Division; the rest by the Nature Reserve Authority, the Jewish National Fund, and the Ministry of Tourism. Once the public development is underway, private funding may be considered as an option."

Widening of Service Road: "Widening... will cost about \$600,000 of which \$200,000 will be obtained from the government through the Settlement Division and the rest from the Ministry of Housing Public Works Department, the Ministry of Defence and the regional (settler) council.

Paving New Road: "Paving... would cost about \$1,500,000, \$500,000 of which is to be funded by the Settlement Division and the rest by the Ministry of Defence, the (Housing Ministry) Public Works Department and the regional (settler) council. Total cost \$7,982,000, with WZO participation at 2,975,000.

A settlement freeze

It is almost impossible to trace Israeli spending on Jewish settlement in the occupied territories because money for settlement is channelled through private and quasi-governmental organisation as well as through numerous government ministries. Israel's settlement policy has in fact been constructed to operate privately, evading public scrutiny by concerned Israelis as well as by a concerned international community.

In the past, enforcement of international agreements with the Israeli government regarding settlement activity has proven difficult. Previous assurances to the U.S. by Israel that loan funds would not be spent in the occupied territories have been openly and defiantly violated. Since enforcing restrictions on the intertwined and private funding relationships between the Israeli government and "private" settlement channels would be impossible without Israeli government cooperation, such restrictions would be an empty gesture at best.

Only a complete settlement freeze, embracing all construction and development, public and private, on Jewish settlement in the occupied territories, can ensure that such settlement is halted. Any loan conditioned on restrictions to Israeli government spending alone will permit continued settlement, and consequently the incremental annexation of the occupied territories and the destruction of the basis for a territorial compromise.

Israel's settlement policy is not a policy which can easily be set aside by the Shamir government, or by any Israeli government — and not only because of electoral pressure, such as placating extreme right-wing coalition partners. Rather, Israel's settlement policy is entrenched in the apparatus of the State. From Israel's earliest years, the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organisation have planned and administered the transfer of land from Palestinian to Jewish hands, controlling billions of dollars in assets and comprising a political power of their own. Their special role is tied into the very concept of a Jewish state, and is not easily challenged. It is unlikely that Israel will accept any restriction on their activities, or that such restrictions could be enforced.

It is time that the international community recognise the depth and seriousness of Israel's settlement policy in the occupied territories. It is a long-term strategy, institutionalised in a complex matrix of institutions sharing responsibility for planning and implementation. Funding, planning, security, construction and services are distributed through public and private agencies, all for one purpose: annexation of the occupied territories, in violation of international law.

Virginia Tilley,
Director,
Settlement Watch.

Delegations reach agreement

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days last month the sides spent wrangling in a corridor of the State Department, unable to agree even to enter the negotiating room.

"I'm very happy to report that the phase of the corridor diplomacy is over," said Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi. "I am glad to tell you we came to an agreement," said chief Jordanian delegate Abdul Salam Majali.

Dr. Ashrawi said Israel had recognised that there should be "two-track" negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians on one hand and Israel and Jordan on the other.

"It means they have recognised that only Palestinians can speak for themselves and speak on Palestinians' behalf," Dr. Ashrawi said.

"We were able to iron out the differences between us on the procedural issues. Let's hope we have a good start," said chief Palestinian delegate Haidar Abdul Shafi.

Dr. Ashrawi said: "if we become involved in proposals and counter proposals on procedural technical issues, we are going to get to the point where we are incomprehensible to each other."

Israel's delegates said earlier that it was the Arabs who held up the peace process when they boycotted the scheduled resump-

tion of talks last week.

"We came last week on Monday and we were going to stay for almost two full weeks. They chose not to come. We can't adapt ourselves to their whims every time. So we're leaving on Wednesday," he said.

The U.S. State Department seemed caught in the middle. "That's for Israel to decide," spokeswoman Margaret D. Tutwiler said.

She said "we are very pleased" that the negotiations had been resumed. She said the Bush administration wished to see the negotiations get to the substance of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

"They resolved something this morning," Ms. Tutwiler said without elaboration.

Washington round may be short

(Continued from page 1)

two Arab sides sent their individual responses to the Israelis Sunday with a view to making sure that, first, the Israelis would not use their new compromise language to create other obstacles to separate Palestinian representation in the future; and, second, to remove any illusion on the Israelis' part that the sessions of the joint delegation, which the Israelis have by now started calling "general meetings," would have any authority over negotiations in the two tracks.

Mr. Rubenstein sent a counter-response on Sunday evening, in which some Jordanian delegates saw a "regression" on the Friday letter and others did not. The former group said there was again the mention of "sub-groups in the separate tracks" in the counter response, which they saw as a new Israeli attempt to treat the "track" as a "committee" of the joint delegation. The latter group, however, insisted that the Israeli position on "the working committees" had not changed from what was mentioned in the Friday proposal and even before.

It was against this background of mixed feelings about and reactions to the Israeli position that Dr. Majali and Dr. Abdul Shafi went to the State Department at 9 a.m. (Washington time) Monday to meet alone with their Israeli counterparts.

This time, however, things were different. The meeting of the three heads of delegations took place inside the officially designated room, and not on the couch out in the corridor, where they had spent 30 hours on fruitless negotiations over precisely the same issue during the second round.

At midday, there were encouraging signs of the negotiators making speedy progress. In that the rest of delegations were called into the State Department at about 10:30 a.m., and a spokesman for the Jordanian delegation revealed in a phone call from the building that proposals and counter proposals had started flowing again in both directions.

Before leaving for the morning session from the Willard Hotel, where the Jordanian delegation is staying, a senior Jordanian delegate told the Jordan Times that the main sticking point with the Israelis concerned the number of delegates that would attend the "general meeting."

"The problem (of representation) could be solved immediately if the Israelis will not place a limit on the number of Palestinian delegates who could attend the 'general meeting,'" the delegate said. "However, we know that the Israelis are adamantly opposed to giving parity to the Palestinians, and are likely therefore to place obstacles in the path of reaching agreement on this crucial point."

The "general meeting" concept was devised by the Israelis to substitute for the joint delegation sessions, upon which Israel had insisted as a "practical necessity" and as "notion that is enshrined

in the invitation to the process."

In his letter Friday, Mr. Rubenstein indicated that he was willing to compromise on both the authority and mechanisms for the "general meeting," but insisted that he would not accept more than 14 Jordanian/Palestinians to sit face to face with a similar number of Israelis, according to informed sources.

The Arabs insist on parity for two teams on their side, meaning that in such a plenary session a number equal to the number of Israelis present would have to attend from each the Jordanian and Palestinian sides.

Furthermore, the Arabs insist on the plenary being called into session only to "discuss" procedural issues, or issues of general interest, and only if the session is called by the "track" and not by request of any of the parties as the Israelis demand.

It goes without saying, according to the Arab sources, that the plenary, or "general meeting," will have no authority or jurisdiction on the proceedings or results in either track.

It was unclear at the time of writing if and how the negotiators could solve the problem especially when the Arab side knew that the Israelis had only a limited agenda for negotiations upon its solution.

The Israelis, in their Friday letter, had explicitly stated that they would only discuss interim self-government arrangements (ISGA) upon successful conclusion of the representation issue.

The Lebanese delegation postponed their talks with the Israelis Monday due to the illness of their chief delegate, Suhail Shammam. The talks have been put off 24 hours, a Lebanese delegate who showed up at the State Department, announced.

Israel's talks with Syria resumed where they had left off in December—in hostile deadlock. "It's really an exercise in futility," Syrian delegation chief Muwaffak Alal said after the morning meeting at the State Department. "Every time we come to start a serious round of talks they limit it to two or three days, which is an indication of the importance they give to the peace process."

Yosef Ben-Aharon, Israel's chief delegate for the talks with Syria, was equally negative. "There is a growing degree of frustration during these talks with the Syrians because we've been trying again and again to get them to address themselves to the substance," he said.

Mr. Ben-Aharon said his delegation displayed a map used in Syrian schools where Israel does not exist "and we told them that this is the basic problem, that Syria denies the legitimacy and existence of Israel."

He said the Israelis still planned to leave on Wednesday and had made clear they wanted the talks to move to the Mideast region. "We have been languishing here... since last Monday," he said, referring to the Arab boycott of the scheduled resumption of the talks last week.

Israeli court rejects plea

(Continued from page 1)

"forced the Israeli army to use this step in a wholesale manner," Mr. Gross said, according to Haaretz.

Haaretz said Mr. Gross was interviewed for the army magazine "Bamachane," but that commanders later refused to publish his comments. Haaretz did not say how it acquired the interview.

The use of "administrative detention" to jail suspects up to six months without trial originated in emergency rules adopted by Britain when it ruled mandatory Palestine.

Israel retained the emergency rules after the state was founded

in 1948. During the uprising, it increased the maximum sentence under "administrative detention" to one year.

Mr. Gross, whose southern command includes the occupied Gaza Strip, reportedly justified the wide use of detentions without trial at the uprising's outset to try to contain the unrest.

But he added that after a few months, commanders continued to use the punishment when the army had more time to put suspects on trial, Haaretz said.

At the uprising's height, more than 2,000 Palestinians were jailed without trial at any given time. Now, 311 suspects are held under "administrative detention," the army said, largely because of a lull in uprising violence.

Mr. Gross was not immediately available for comment. An army official, speaking on condition of anonymity in keeping with regulations, said "the number of administrative detentions has been specifically reduced lately."

The official also argued that suspects were jailed without trial only "because of the danger they pose to the lives and safety of others." He said the reason for avoiding a trial was to protect witnesses.

The United States and other Western countries have repeatedly condemned Israel's jailing of suspects without trial as a human rights violation that denies victims the right of due process.

Algerian Islamists urge fight

(Continued from page 1)

are from the military which was alarmed at the FIS advance and its plans to put Algeria's 25 million people under Islamic religious law. Insams meanwhile sent out orders from the country's mosques warning activists to remain calm and avoid provoking the military into a bloody crackdown.

Small groups of bearded fundamentalists gathered at the party's headquarters in central Algiers to swirl over the events, but leading members were not present.

Mr. Benjedid's resignation upset calculations that he would act as a moderating force if the fundamentalists won control of parliament.

The State Security Council, normally just an advisory body, made such a counter-balance unnecessary Sunday by cancelling a run-off vote Thursday.

"It is impossible to continue the election process until the necessary conditions for the normal functioning of institutions... are fulfilled," the council said in a statement.

The council declared it was "temporarily taking over all matters that could threaten public order and state security."

It did not elaborate, but appeared to fall short of declaring emergency rule.

Ahmad Ben Bella, independent Algeria's first president until his three-year rule was ended by an army coup in 1965, praised the new authorities for what he called their "deep patriotism."

"The political situation was at an impasse, and our country found itself at the edge of an abyss, with the spectre of civil war on one hand and foreign threats on the other," Mr. Ben Bella said.

It was not clear what foreign threats he meant. Mr. Ben Bella has said several times that he would like to run for the presidency, but few observers give him any chance of winning.

"Democracy will only gain by this move," Algerian Ambassador to Britain Ali Lihikdari said in an interview with BBC radio.

"The party that was on the brink of winning the election state as the official programme that democracy is incompatible with its own programme," Mr. Lihikdari said.

A rift between Mr. Benjedid and the military had been growing ever since the president refused to use the four-month state of emergency he declared in June to ban the Muslim party, reports said.

Other reports had Mr. Benjedid conceding to fundamentalists demands that he sack his general staff after the second round.

Mr. Benjedid called the state of emergency to quell fundamentalist violence ahead of the original June 27 election date. At least 55 people were killed in clashes between the fundamentalists and security forces.

One diplomat said some arrests had apparently been made but there was no confirmation of the report.

After a night of crisis meetings, Prime Minister Sidahmed Ghazali and his aides acting as the State

Security Council, took over from caretaker President Abdelmalek Benhabyles Sunday.

Mr. Benhabyles had been acting head of state for less than 24 hours, after stepping into a power vacuum left when President Benjedid resigned.

The council said that under the constitution, Mr. Benhabyles could not continue as acting president because Mr. Benjedid had resigned, not died, and parliament had been dissolved.

"I assume they have done it because they don't want presidential elections in 45 days," said a senior Western diplomat.

Under the constitution, an acting head of state has to call presidential elections within 45 days.

Diplomats said Mr. Ghazali and the other members of the council were not prepared to run the risk of the FIS, which took 188 of the 232 seats won in the first round last month, winning control of parliament.

"One thing is sure, there is a major risk of tension rising a notch from this morning," said the daily Al Watan. "This situation, totally unexpected, is again going to spark anxiety of a confrontation with the FIS," said Le Matin daily.

Mr. Ghazali said he ordered the military to strategic points, as a precaution on news of Mr. Benjedid's departure.

One Western diplomat said at the weekend that doctors in military hospitals had been put on alert for possible violent reaction to any cancellation of the second round of voting.

The council said it was "in permanent session to meet its obligations" in the vacuum caused by Mr. Benjedid's departure. It then cancelled the general election.

Temporary FIS leader Abdul Kader Hachani, before the takeover, insisted the elections continue.

"Beware... the professionals of despotism who want to steal your jihad, your struggle and your ambition for an Islamic state," he told supporters in a statement.

Mr. Ghazali, Defence Minister Khaled Nezzar and Interior Minister Larbi Belkheir are the most high-profile members of the council. Mr. Nezzar has twice effectively run Algeria under the state of siege declared by Mr. Benjedid after severe unrest.

"It's a coup d'etat, no doubt about it," said one foreign diplomat, echoing a charge by politician Hocine Ait Ahmed, leader of the Socialist Forces Front (FSF) which won 25 seats in the first round, joined the FIS call for the election to continue. The former ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), humbled with just 16 seats, did the same.

Iran said the Algerian people would not stand for the heavy-handed tactics that blocked the fundamentalists from winning power through general elections.

France issued a cautious statement expressing its concern over events in

its former colony but diplomats said Paris was relieved the FIS had been prevented from taking control of parliament through the ballot box.

Newspapers in Tunisia, which borders Algeria and has banned its own Al Nahdha fundamentalist movement, welcomed the decision by the new leadership in Algeria.

Libya predicted the fundamentalists would eventually triumph in Algeria.

Iranian Vice-President Hassan Habibi said the Algerian people would reject the State Security Council and its deeds. Tehran newspapers warned of civil war and bloodshed.

"Obviously, people of a country who have an impressive anti-colonialist record would never accept their country be administered by force," Mr. Habibi was quoted as saying by the Iranian news agency IRNA.

Mr. Habibi, stressing Tehran's policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, said Iran was closely following the events in Algeria.

The Tehran Times, which often reflects the government's thinking on foreign policy matters, said "Algeria has been pushed to the brink of a civil war..."

"Isn't it tragic and scandalous that the Algerian army who had once fought the French colonialists, is now about to face its own Muslim people in a potentially bloody encounter?"

The French foreign ministry statement said: "We reiterate our concern about the events taking place in Algeria which we are following with great attention."

"As Algeria goes through a crucial period in its history, France reaffirms its solidarity with the Algerian people whom it has supported unceasingly, while playing host to a large Algerian community."

Tunisian newspapers openly expressed relief.

By resigning Mr. Benjedid had "cut the grass from under the feet of FIS militants who had the wind in their favour," the independent weekly Tunis-Habdo said. The independent daily Assabah compared the developments "to a last-minute change of direction by a train heading towards the abyss."

Libya predicted the FIS side would not be stemmed.

"It's impossible to turn back. The FIS has an appointment with history. It will not miss it," Major Abdul Salam Jelloud, top aide of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, told the Tunis daily La Stampa.

Arabs fear bloodshed in Algeria

(Continued from page 1)

"Algeria has proved that if the Arab masses are allowed to choose their leaders freely they will choose Islam," said Dr. Mahmoud Zahar, a senior leader in Hamas, an Islamic fundamentalist organisation in the

Gaza Strip.

"The Salvation Front has only two choices: Either to go out in the streets for bloody confrontations with the army, or they will sit silent," Mr. Zahar added. "In both cases I think they will claim victory."

"It will be very impossible for

the leaders of Algeria to prevent any unrest."

A guard from Bethlehem, Jumah Sarawy, 32, said he believed "the Salvation Front will not sit silently. The situation in Algeria is now explosive and can blow up any minute. The results will be bloody."

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Jordan Times

Fortune smiles as AC Milan stretches Italian League lead

LONDON (R) — Fortune smiled on Italian League leaders AC Milan at the weekend.

A defensive deflection after a contested corner gave them a 1-0 win over Verona, whose disallowed equaliser looked inside in television replays.

The victory stretched Milan's lead to three points over Juventus and, with the season not quite halfway through Italian papers are already suggesting the title is in the bag.

"Milan, the title's just around the corner," suggested Il Messaggero and "Milan, a regal touch," headlined Gazzetta dello Sport Monday.

Milan coach Fabio Capello rejected suggestions that his side had been lucky. "Our goalkeeper (Sebastiano) Rossi didn't have to make a save all afternoon and Verona never got a shot in on goal," he said. "If anything, we might have scored a second goal on a couple of occasions."

Juventus could only draw 1-1 away to Cagliari, leaving coach Giovanni Trapattoni to comment ruefully:

"There was a time when it was enough to win at home and draw away."

While Milan cruise comfortably at the top of the table, their local rivals Internazionale, nine points behind, found themselves bitterly criticised by their fans following their last gasp 1-0 home in over Bari.

An 87th minute goal from German striker Juergen Klinsmann was not enough to placate angry Inter fans who gathered outside the team exit, forcing both the

players and club President Ernesto Pellegrini to delay their departure from the San Siro Stadium.

Italian champions Sampdoria, recovering from a poor start to the season, beat fourth-placed Lazio 1-0 with Italy striker Gianluca Vialli heading the goal after just six minutes.

Sampdoria goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca denied Lazio an equaliser eight minutes from time when he kept out a penalty from German midfielder Thomas Doll.

Real Madrid's Romanian midfielder George Hagi was the toast of the Spanish capital Monday after scoring a spectacular goal in a class 5-2 win over Osasuna, which restored Real's five-point lead at the top of the Spanish League.

Real were 1-0 up from a goal by Emilio Butragueno when Hagi broke from a tackle in the centre circle in the 32nd minute, saw Osasuna goalkeeper Roberto Santamaria was well off his line and lifted a perfect 44-metre shot over his head and into the net.

"I can't find words for it. It was the best goal of my life," said Hagi, who completed a brilliant display by scoring Real's fourth goal in the 60th minute.

Real coach Radomir Antic was delighted that his team had rediscovered their scoring touch after three disappointing league performances.

"The team played very well and showed their old aggressive flair. We never let the others play," he said.

Champions Barcelona moved

into second place above Atletico Madrid with a 2-1 home win over Real Valladolid.

The top three Dutch teams all won convincingly after their mid-winter break.

PSV stretched their unbeaten record to 20 matches when they won 4-1 against Sparta Rotterdam. Talented Brazilian Romario returned to the side to score two.

Second-placed Feyenoord, two points behind PSV with one more game played, had an easy 3-0 victory against lowly FC Den Haag.

The stronger Feyenoord had a helping hand from 37-year-old Den Haag striker Heini Otto, who scored two own goals in 10 minutes.

Ajax Amsterdam, trailing PSV by five points won 4-1 away at MVV Maastricht. Dutch top-scorer Dennis Bergkamp scored twice to lift his season's tally to 18 before he left the field with a muscle injury that could keep him out of the Ajax PSV clash next weekend.

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Leeds takes top spot

In England, striker Lee Chapman scored a hat-trick as Leeds

crushed Sheffield Wednesday 6-1 away to reclaim top spot in the English first division Sunday.

Leeds climbed one point above Manchester United, 1-0 winners at home to Everton Saturday, with 52 points. Third-placed Liverpool are 11 points adrift of Leeds.

Chapman sidestepped a centre from the right past England goalkeeper Chris Woods eight minutes

from the start and headed further goals in the 43rd and 66th minutes.

England left back Tony Dorico scored with a free kick and John Sheridan hit one back for Wednesday after they were awarded a controversial penalty in the first half which ended 3-1 after Chapman headed his second goal.

Leeds stroked the ball around with growing confidence and Chapman and substitute Mike Whitlow added further headed goals after the break as the Wednesday defence were found wanting in the air.

Nippy forward Rod Wallace scored a deserved last goal four minutes from time after having a hand in most of the previous goals with his darting runs and pin-point crosses.

Promoted Wednesday, in third place before the weekend's league action but down to fifth after their first home defeat of the season, were lucky to get on the scoresheet.

Striker Gordon Watson fell inside the box after an interception by defender Chris Whyte, but Leeds players protested the Wednesday forward had dived.

Leeds' keeper John Lukic saved Sheridan's 39-minute penalty, palming the ball onto his right hand post, but the Wednesday midfielder netted the rebound.

Manchester United, who visit Leeds Wednesday for a postponed Football Association (F.A.) Cup third round tie, have two league games in hand over the joint favourites for the title.

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JORDAN BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The top two basketball teams in the country, Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxy put an end to Al Jalil's and Al Jazireh's ambitions of staging an upset by scoring surprise wins over the titleholders and their all-time rivals.

On Sunday, Al Ahli beat Al Jalil, who have had a good season but have now settled for No. 3, in their match played at Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid.

In another match in Amman Saturday, Al Orthodoxy scored a convincing victory over fourth-placed Al Jazireh.

Al Orthodoxy played a fast aggressive game, taking advantage of Al Jazireh's relatively shorter players' inability to effectively stop them from scoring as they won the first half 49-25.

Al Jazireh tried to lessen the difference but to no avail, as Al Orthodoxy won the match 99-59.

After their upset 73-64 loss to Al Orthodoxy two weeks ago, and struggling to beat Al Jazireh in an earlier match, Al Ahli Sunday played Al Jalil with the determination to show that they can score an easy victory. Al Ahli led from the beginning, clearly outscoring their ambitious foes 21-11 and 29-13, while alternating their defence tactics from a zone to a tighter man-to-man defence.

They continued to expand the difference to 32-15 and won the first half 47-31.

Al Ahli continued to dominate and their coach gave all bench players a chance to play and broaden their experience as they went on to win the match 94-74.

In a statement to the Jordan Times, Al Ahli's head coach Rizeq Al Masri said: "Today we concentrated on avoiding the mistakes and shortcomings that led to our defeat against Al Orthodoxy. We played the way we wanted to, and everything went smoothly. All my players gave it their best," he said. "And Marwan Ma'touq who has had a disastrous scoring record this season was our top scorer today."

Contemplating Al Ahli's surprise loss to Al Orthodoxy, after they had won the first half Masri said: "It was pure bad luck. Al Orthodoxy took advantage of a series of turnovers at the beginning of the second half, and we had a lot of personal fouls."

As for Al Ahli's key guard, Naser Bushnaq, who is missing this season to recover from surgery, Masri said that Bushnaq is recovering well but would not be ready to play for yet another month.

"Naser will begin light training sessions as of the coming Saturday, but there's no way we will let him play a match that would put his recuperation at risk. We want him to take it easy and recover completely."

In the upcoming matches Al Ahli plays Al Jazireh Sunday, Jan. 19, while Al Orthodoxy clashes with Al Jalil Tuesday, Jan. 21. Both matches are at the Sports Palace court in Amman.

Nigeria grabs late win over Senegal in African Cup

DAKAR (R) — Central defender Stephen Keshi hit a late winner for Nigeria as they beat hosts Senegal 2-1 in their opening Group A clash in the African Nations' Cup finals.

Keshi, who plays for Strasbourg in France and is one of several professionals in the Nigerian team, scored with a first-time shot from 12 metres after being well set-up by substitute Friday Ekpo.

The result was a huge disappointment for the noisy army of Senegal fans in the 59,000-seater stadium, but few could argue that better-organised Nigeria deserved victory.

Nigeria went in front after 13 minutes when the impressive Samson Siasia, who plays for Lokoren in Belgium, chested and turned in one movement to score with an accurate diagonal shot.

Lifted by the crowd, Senegal responded after 38 minutes when Jules Bocande, of French club Lens, intercepted to score from close range as the slow Keshi failed to clear.

The match was of much higher quality than the tournament-opening Group B clash between Cameroon and Morocco, with the Nigerian attack looking particularly impressive despite a difficult, uneven pitch.

Cameroon, sensations of the 1990 World Cup finals, won 1-0. Their 23rd minute goal was scored by France-based professional, Andre Kana-Biyik.

Crowds of brightly-coloured dancers and a crescendo of drums heralded Sunday's opening of the 18th African Nations' Cup Soccer Finals, widely regarded as the most important in the 35-year history of the tournament.

In front of Senegal President Abdou Diouf, whose arrival signalled the start of the festive proceedings, the half-filled Stade De l'Amitie was brought to life by the brilliantly-dressed musicians and dancers.

But the stadium, with a capacity of 60,000 was less than full because of the prices of tickets to see the double bill of opening matches between Cameroon and Morocco and hosts Senegal and Nigeria.

Becker, Seles advance at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Defending champion Monica Seles shrugged off a neck injury to inflict punishment on Japan's Akiko Kijimuta Monday in the Australian Open.

Pete Sampras, the No. 6 men's seed, wasn't as lucky. A sore shoulder forced him to withdraw from the Grand Slam event for the second straight year without playing a point.

Seles, making her first tournament appearance since November, was rusty on her serve, losing it twice, including the first game. But her forehand and two-fisted backhand looked as devastating as ever while whipping Kijimuta 6-2, 6-0 in 48 minutes.

Kijimuta wilted under the constant pressure and failed to hold any of her seven service games in the first-round match.

Seles, the top-seeded woman, has been suffering from a neck strain since arriving in Australia a week ago. She wore a brace for a day before switching to a scarf for warmth.

"Today was the first day I played without the scarf," she said. "Maybe just one or two

points I was aware of it. But it felt fine."

"I'm not feeling that comfortable with the service because I didn't hit that many this week. I just wanted to get over the match."

But the two-month layoff did help Seles' attitude.

"I feel fresh," she said. Defending men's champion Boris Becker worries about the strength-sapping heat in Melbourne, but it was his opponent who sagged under the steam of 25 aces.

While Becker smoldered on the court in 90-degree (33 C) weather, one of his chief rivals, Sampras, got frozen out by injury again. The reigning ATP champion and 1990 U.S. Open winner left with an inflamed shoulder tendon that he aggravated last week in a tune-up event in Adelaide.

A year ago, Sampras withdrew from the Grand Slam event two days before the start because of shin splints.

The second-seeded Becker knocked off Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 and seemed

surprised when told he had 25 aces.

"That's good news," Becker said with a smile. "That's quite a lot, even for me. I couldn't have asked for a better match."

Top-seeded Stefan Edberg, appearing in a major tournament for the first time after a two-month layoff to recuperate from injuries, was nervous before his match. But he quickly picked up steam in ripping doubles partner Jeremy Bates of Britain 6-4, 6-2, 6-4.

"I didn't feel good to start with," Edberg said. "It took me a couple of games to get into it."

The first day of the two-week Grand Slam event also marked the Australian debut of 15-year-old Jennifer Capriati, who delighted an enthusiastic centre-court crowd with a display of strength in ousting Natalia Medvedeva 6-2, 6-0.

The fifth-seeded Floridian, cheered on every point she won, spent nearly as much time signing autographs after the match as the 44 minutes she needed to dispatch her overwhelmed opponent.

Armed with a devastating 100 mph (160 kph) serve that got her out of the only two jams she faced, Capriati blasted seven aces and ran off the last 10 games of the match.

"I thought the crowd was cool," Capriati said. "They were into it. The atmosphere was great."

I didn't know what to expect."

American Jeff Tarango came up with one of the only first-round upsets, coming back from two sets down to oust ninth-seeded Peter Korda 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

His next match pairs him against fellow Stanford alumnus Patrick McEnroe, who beat Italy's Massimo Clero 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. McEnroe reached the semifinals a year ago.

American Brad Gilbert, ranked 20th, was another early casualty, losing in five sets to No. 256 Lars Wahlgren of Sweden 1-6, 6-2, 6-1, 3-6, 6-2. Last year, Wahlgren ousted the No. 15 seed, Marc Rosset, in his only other five-set match.

Fifth-seeded Ivan Lendl, a two-time winner here, beat Australian Richard Fromberg 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 in the opening match on the 15,000-seat centre court.

The easy victories weren't the only thing Edberg and Becker have in common — neither had much of a Christmas. Becker was on a plane flying to Australia to prepare for this event, while Edberg was on a court for the first time since suffering tendinitis in his knee, then injuring his wrist.

But they differed on the need to be tops in the world. Becker leaped to the head of the rankings after winning this event last year. But Edberg quickly regained the honour.

Cruyff to coach Dutch team in 1994 World Cup

AMSTERDAM (R) — Johan Cruyff has agreed to coach the Netherlands in the 1994 World Cup finals, if they qualify, Dutch newspapers reported Monday.

De Telegraaf and De Volkskrant newspapers said Cruyff, who coaches Spanish first division Barcelona, and officials of the Dutch Soccer Association (KNVB) had reached a verbal agreement to that effect in Barcelona at the weekend.

"The KNVB wanted to fix everything immediately in a contract, but I felt that was a bit premature," De Telegraaf quoted Cruyff as saying.

"Anyway, money is not the most important thing. After everything football has given me, I see it as a moral obligation to make myself available for the Dutch team," he added.

Cruyff was voted European Footballer of the Year three times in the 1970s during a dazzling playing career with Ajax Amsterdam, Barcelona and the Netherlands.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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A TWO-POINT CONVERSION

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ J 10 7 4 2
♥ 6 5
♦ K 10 7
♣ A Q

WEST EAST
♠ A 5 ♠ Void
♥ A K 10 9 ♥ 7 3 2
♦ 8 4 2 ♦ Q 9 8 5
♣ K 10 3 ♣ J 9 8 6 4 2

SOUTH
♠ K Q 9 6 3
♥ Q 8 4
♦ A J 3
♣ 7 5

The bidding:
West North East South
1 Pass Pass 1 ♠
Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Good technicians don't like to have to guess the location of a key card. By delaying the decision as long as possible, they hope to garner enough information to change a 50-50 proposition into a sure thing.

North would rate high on our list of considerate partners. Since South could have a relatively weak hand for his one-spade bid in the balancing seat, North made a jump raise to three spades rather than hang partner for not selling out by leaping to game. With a very sound reopening bid, South proceeded to game forthwith.

The defense started with three rounds of hearts. Since declarer would have to lose a trick to the ace of trumps, the contract hinged on finesses in the minor suits. The club finesse could only be taken one way, but either defender could be played for the queen of diamonds. South decided to consign that card to the opening bidder and eventually finessed West for the lady—down one.

Rather than arbitrarily relegate her majesty to either defender, declarer should proceed on an exploratory mission. After winning the third heart, declarer should force out the ace of trumps. Once trumps have been cleared, the mandatory finesse of the queen of clubs is taken and, when that wins, South should pause to take stock.

What has declarer learned so far? West, who had only four hearts, has a balanced hand with 14 known points—ace-king of hearts, ace of spades and king of clubs. Had West held the queen of diamonds, that defender would have started with an all-suits—an automatic one-no-trump opening bid! Since West had opened one heart, the queen of diamonds had to be with East. Therefore, declarer should cross to the king of diamonds, finesse the jack and claim the contract.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JANUARY 14, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Build up your vitality during the early part of the day and after your energies are restored you will be able to make more constructive plans for the days ahead. Keep on the alert.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are now able to see for yourself how better to do your daily duties so that they are handled with greater efficiency and a more comfortable manner.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is your moment to gain the good will of those fascinating personalities who understand money and how to utilize it to full advantage.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are highly articulate now and can express your views in a manner that others get the point and are more than usually willing to go along with you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) There are so many things of an intimate nature for you to do before you feel comfortable and able to go out on your own so get them behind you now.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Show you are able to ferret out what and get off to chat group activity where you are able to enjoy those close to you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) It's up to you to let that person who has so much influence in your

life know you are doing your best to conform to the rules and regulations that apply to you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) If you have any sort of interest in getting out of this is the time to do so and do it about personal matters.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have many obligations to attend to and they apply to official duties as well as where your partners and your personal life is concerned.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Come to a new understanding with anyone at all who expects you to make some policy decisions with him where some mutual undertaking is concerned.

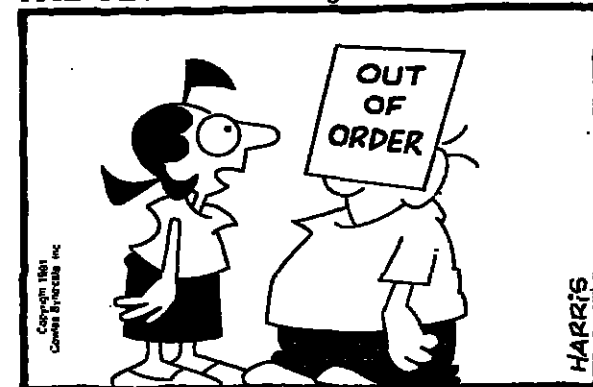
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Look to the tasks facing you as your outlet now and be most conscientious in completing it and showing your ability to do a good job.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Think out some new course that can bring you the pleasures that have been lacking for a while and forego making anything big about some material concern.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get off and do the shopping necessary to make your home more than a place that you would like it to be and add some comforts that are lacking.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Mid-life crisis?"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lay

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CAPEE

LEROD

MEAFED

GARSIT

Now it's up to you.

WILL A COLLEGE EDUCATION HELP HIM TO SUCCEED IN LIFE?

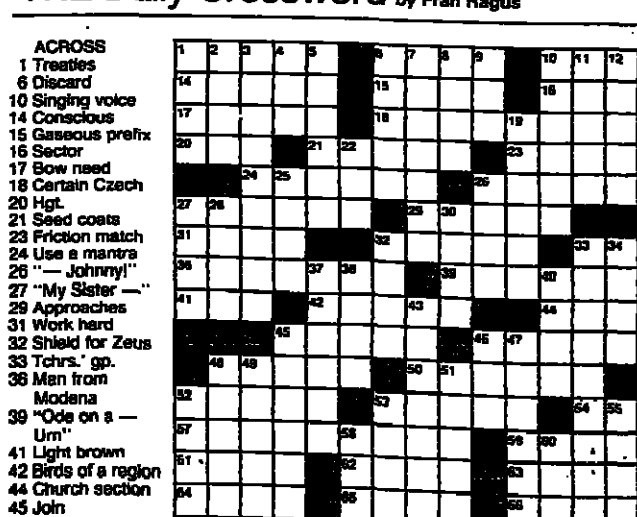
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: TO

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLOOD PIECE GULLET WHENCE

Answer: What kind of a success did she have when she gave her first vocal concert?—A "HOWLING" ONE

THE Daily Crossword by Fran Ragus



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Trestles
2. Singing voice
3. Concocted
4. Gaseous prefix
5. Sector
6. Bow head
7. Certain Czech
8. Hgt.
9. Seed coats
10. Friction match
11. Use a mantra
12. "Johnny!"
13. My Sister
14. Approaches
15. Work hard
16. Shield for Zeus
17. Tens' go.
18. Tens' go.
19. Man from Modena
20. "Ode on a Urn"
21. Light brown
22. Birds of a region
23. Church section
24. John
25. Floor covering
26. Vehicles
27. Handsome young man
28.

Vatican recognises Croatia, Slovenia

VATICAN CITY (R) — The Vatican Monday officially recognised the independence of the predominantly Roman Catholic Yugoslav Republics of Croatia and Slovenia, without waiting for the rest of Europe to do so.

"The Vatican has today sent a message to the Republics of Croatia and Slovenia recognising their independence and sovereignty," Monsignor Piero Pennacchini, the Vatican's deputy spokesman, told a news conference.

He said the Holy See had also sent a message to the Yugoslav government stressing it should not interpret the move as a hostile act.

The European Community (EC) has set itself a deadline of Jan. 15 for replying to recognition requests from Yugoslavia's breakaway republics. Germany, breaking ranks with its Community partners, recognised Croatia and Slovenia last month.

Pope John Paul has for months been openly defending Croatia's bid for nationhood and criticising the actions of the Serb-led Yugoslav army.

His stand has provoked deep resentment in Serbia. The Serbian Orthodox Church joined in an Orthodox boycott of the first synod of Roman Catholic bishops from Eastern and Western Europe called by the Pope last November.

In his annual "state of the world" address, the Polish-born Pope last Saturday described as revolting what he said was systematic bombing of churches and hospitals in Croatia.

The Holy See said just before Christmas that it was ready to recognise Croatia and Slovenia, but the formal announcement was delayed until Monday.

Pennacchini said the Vatican hoped to establish full diplomatic relations with the two republics as soon as possible.

The Vatican spokesman said both Croatia and Slovenia fulfilled conditions set by the EC for recognition by providing guarantees they would respect human rights and ethnic minorities.

The Holy See said in a statement in hoped "Croatia and Slovenia would know how to contribute to the pacification of the Balkan region and the construction of a more fraternal world."

It said the Papal Nuncio in Belgrade, Bishop Gabriel Montalvo, would stay on as "papal envoy in Yugoslavia."

Meanwhile Croatian and Serbian forces fought an hour-long battle with assault rifles and mortars Sunday, leaving five dead and three wounded in the worst violation so far of a United Nations-brokered ceasefire.

The Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency said Croatian forces attacked Serbian defence units distributing rations to troops along the Drava River on the Hungarian border, killing two Serb soldiers and wounding three others.

Serbian forces returned the fire, killing three Croats, but they needed mortars to finally drive off the attackers, Tanjug said.

An account of the clash from

the Croatian side was not immediately available.

It was the most serious violation to date of a ceasefire hammered out by U.N. special envoy Cyrus Vance and the warring factions in Yugoslavia. The truce went into effect on Jan. 3.

Some 50 U.N. observers are due in Yugoslavia early this week to decide whether the truce is stable enough to go ahead with a planned deployment of 10,000 U.N. peacekeeping troops.

The U.S. "blue helmets" will take up positions in Croatia, where more than 6,000 people have been killed in fighting since the republic declared its independence last June.

Mr. Vance said the U.N. force would show up, joining about 170 European Community peace monitors, only when the latest truce — the 15th since July — was deemed secure.

The Serbian-dominated army has been fighting to try to hold together the country of 23.5 million people set up in 1918, but the northern, largely-Roman Catholic republics of Slovenia and Croatia are determined to leave.

Diplomats expressed concern that Yugoslavia's dismemberment could fuel rival territorial claims on the Balkan peninsula — once known as the powder keg of Europe for its explosive mix of rival ethnic and religious groups.

The EC has tried in vain to oversee an orderly end to the Yugoslav state, but is itself divided over which breakaway republics to recognise.

EC efforts to bring peace to

Yugoslavia received a blow last Tuesday when an air force fighter shot down a helicopter carrying five unarmed EC peace observers, who all died.

The Yugoslav Defence Ministry has said the downing of the helicopter was a mistake, but it is at odds with the EC over how the incident occurred.

The Defence Ministry, backed by a new statement Sunday from the federal flight control administration, has said the EC helicopter was flying without official permission when shot down.

The EC has called the ministry's account inaccurate and said the helicopter had official clearance to fly and was on its approved course when attacked.

In London, Lord Carrington, the European Community's peace envoy to Yugoslavia, said Monday he was confident U.N. peace-keeping troops would be sent to the Balkan federation despite the latest truce violations.

"There was a very small break of the ceasefire yesterday but I don't think that was important," Lord Carrington told reporters before flying from London to New York.

Asked whether he believed U.N. forces would be sent to Yugoslavia, Lord Carrington, a former British foreign secretary, said: "I hope so... the ceasefire has held quite well."

Lord Carrington had talks with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali in London Sunday and he will meet the U.N.'s special envoy to Yugoslavia Cyrus Vance on his one-day trip to New York.

Russia, Ukraine to fulfil arms accords

MOSCOW (R) — Russia and Ukraine will continue to reduce their military arsenals in line with existing international agreements, TASS News Agency said Monday.

The agency said the two former Soviet republics agreed to fulfil arms reduction accords during a weekend meeting at which they decided to share control of the Black Sea Fleet.

Disagreement over the fleet's future had threatened to split the fledgling Commonwealth of Independent States.

TASS quoted Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev as saying the weekend talks resulted in "reasonable approaches to sharing responsibility for the Black Sea Fleet and army units stationed on Ukrainian soil."

He added: "Kiev and Moscow will continue to reduce their military arsenals in line with international agreements."

Mr. Kozyrev said there was never any danger of a major rift with Ukraine over the Black Sea Fleet despite conflicting statements made in the past week by the leaders of the two powerful countries.

Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Gennady Burbulis described the row between Russia and Ukraine, both of which claimed the 300-vessel fleet, as "irrelevant."

The two sides agreed that the fleet's strategic forces would come under Commonwealth command, while other units would be incorporated into Ukraine's independent military, he said.

"The alarm, anxiety and psychological and political conflict which was escalating last week... is now irrelevant," he said.

The dispute threatened to scuttle the Commonwealth almost before it had a chance to build on the cooperation principles enshrined in last month's Minsk and Alma-Ata agreements.

The new Commonwealth, reeling from the impact of price liberalisation after decades of state controls, still faces a tough challenge in coordinating free market reforms and averting social unrest.

Thousands of pro-Communists, waving red hammer-and-sickle flags, rallied in Moscow and St. Petersburg at the weekend under the banner "march of the hungry queues."

Mr. Burbulis vowed to plough ahead with radical reforms.

"We simply cannot allow leaders to be retained who either cannot carry out (the tasks) or, for no reason or another, sabotage or ignore this work," he said.

"By the end of January, we shall be completing an expert analysis in all regions of Russia of this tense month of January," Mr. Burbulis said.

Pakistan has Islamic bomb — U.S. senator

ISLAMABAD (R) — The United States believes Pakistan possesses the "Islamic bomb" and fears the emergence of a nuclear-armed, fundamentalist Muslim Bloc in Central Asia, a U.S. senator said Monday.

Pakistan denies it is developing atomic weapons but Republican Senator Larry Pressler told a news conference in Islamabad the U.S. government was convinced Pakistan had a nuclear device it could use.

"The Bush administration made a determination... that Pakistan has the capability to have a nuclear bomb which may be put together, but it is in two pieces or something, but it is there," he said.

"It may not be a bomb that we can look at or touch or so forth," he said.

His comments were the clearest expression of U.S. concerns since President George Bush halted all military and new economic aid to Pakistan in October 1990 because of worries about its nuclear programme.

U.S. sources said then that Pakistan had stepped up efforts in early 1990 to make weapons-grade uranium, coinciding with a rapid rise in tension with its traditional foe India over a Muslim uprising in disputed Kashmir.

The cut-off of arms deliveries and spare parts has hit the Pakistan military hard, particularly its frontline air defence squadrons of U.S. F-16s.

Sen. Pressler, the author of legislation under which the aid was halted, said there was great concern in Washington about the possible rise of an Islamic Bloc in Central Asia.

"There is a fear of an Islamic bomb here and in some of the states in the Soviet Union. There is also growing concern about Islamic fundamentalism because of the... experience that our country has had with Iran."

Pakistan and Iran have begun to forge links with the five new Islamic republics of Central Asia and Azerbaijan that Sen. Pressler said could form the nucleus of an Islamic strategic bloc.

Many leading Pakistanis, including former army chief Gener-

al Mirza Aslam Beg, have voiced such dreams.

The emerging Economic Cooperation Organisation already links Pakistan to Iran and Turkey and several former Soviet republics have expressed interest in joining.

At least one has nuclear weapons stationed on its soil.

"A bloc or confederation of some sort, if two of three countries in it have nuclear weapons, that would be a great concern to my countrymen and to many others," Sen. Pressler said at the end of a 24-hour visit.

His fears of an Islamic federation, first raised in India at the weekend, were dismissed Sunday by Pakistan's Minister for State for Foreign Affairs, Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanju, as baseless.

Sen. Pressler, reviled in Pakistan for what is seen as his discriminatory legislation because it only targets Pakistan's nuclear programme, was forced to make do with meeting second rank politicians and officials.

He expected to meet Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan but they declined, diplomatic sources said.

Pakistan and the United States have held several rounds of talks to try to break the deadlock over the aid cut-off, and Pakistan's new army chief General Asif Nawaz was in Washington last week for talks.

Sen. Pressler said the Bush administration would like to see that Pressler amendment repealed but he said Congress would not agree and, if anything, would strengthen conditions on U.S. aid to all countries.

Both India and Pakistan have long been considered at least threshold nuclear powers, neither of which have signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. India exploded what it said was a "peaceful" nuclear device in 1974.

Pakistan says it will sign when India agrees but New Delhi refuses to accept a regional approach and argues that disarmament must be dealt with globally.

S. Korean premier signs nuclear pact

SEOUL (R) — South Korean Prime Minister Chung Won-Shik signed Monday a pact with North Korea declaring the peninsula free of nuclear weapons, a spokesman for the premier's office said.

"This is one step towards denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula. I hope North Korea will implement the accord sincerely," Mr. Chung was quoted by state radio as saying.

Settling the nuclear question — seen as one of the greatest threats to peace in the post-cold war

world — would remove the major obstacle hanging over a non-aggression and reconciliation pact signed by the two Koreas on Dec. 13.

The two Koreas will exchange signed copies of the pact on Tuesday at Panmunjom, the crossing point on the heavily-fortified truce line dividing Stalinist North from the South.

Premier Yon Hyong-Muk is due to sign for the North.

After examination, the signed copies will be re-exchanged during North-South talks on Jan. 21,

at Panmunjom, and both sides will start implementing the accord, the state-run Korea Broadcasting System said.

The treaty formally goes into effect when the two premiers meet for Feb. 19-21 talks in Pyongyang.

The six-point nuclear agreement, reached after negotiations stretching late into the evening of Dec. 31 requires the two Koreas to abstain from making, owning, deploying and using nuclear weapons.

It limits use of nuclear energy to peaceful purposes.

U.K. urges haste in Cambodia peace operation

PHNOM PENH (R) — British Minister of State Lord Calthness said Monday the international peacekeeping operation for Cambodia must go ahead with all speed to meet the timetable agreed last October.

Lord Calthness, speaking after meeting Cambodian faction leaders, said immense difficulties still had to be overcome to ensure lasting peace after more than two decades of war and civil strife.

"But they are determined to meet their side of the bargain and that is the message I will take home. The U.N. must also play their part, which they are doing," he told reporters.

Britain, as one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, helped to formulate a U.N.-brokered peace accord that the Cambodian government and the three opposing guerrilla factions signed.

Under the treaty, a force of U.N. peacekeepers and administrators several thousand strong is to be deployed to ensure a ceasefire and help arrange free elections.

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire (AP) — What a difference plummeting poll numbers and a New Year make.

A year ago, with America on the verge of war, it was taboo to bash President George Bush. Even after the war, Mr. Bush's stratospheric poll ratings kept critics quiet.

But now, with the president's popularity slipping and election season approaching, Bush-bashing is all the rage.

Some of the rhetoric is personal, most of it pointed, all of it aimed at driving Mr. Bush's numbers down even further.

Not all of it is from Democrats, either. Mr. Bush's Republican challengers in New Hampshire, conservative commentator Patrick Buchanan, is piling it on as well, at times making the Democrats sound tame.

Mr. Bush is just getting his campaign under way, so the rhetorical war has been virtually one-sided to date. A recent sampling:

"I think his head is fixed," Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin tells audiences as he lobbies for votes in recession-weary New Hampshire. "He has the same view of the country as Herbert Hoover — that the president can do nothing. Nice guy, nice wife, nice dog, but his head is fixed."

From Sen. Harkin, that's the soft stuff.

The feisty Iowan is fond of calling Mr. Bush "George Herbert Hoover Bush" and poking fun at the president's privileged upbringing by telling audiences, "George Bush was born on third base and thinks he hit a triple."

Sen. Harkin by far has the sharpest bite of the Democrats when it comes to Bush-bashing. But his rivals often manage a bark or two.

Former Japanese minister arrested

TOKYO (R) — Prosecutors Monday arrested former Japanese cabinet minister Fumio Abe on suspicion of taking bribes from a land developer, Kyodo News Service and the NHK Television Network reported.

Until last month, Abe, 69, had served Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa as manager and treasurer of his faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. He resigned the post after first reports of the scandal surfaced in Japanese newspapers.

Mr. Abe is a member of parliament and former minister for Okinawa and Hokkaido development. Deputy Chief Prosecutor Takeo Takahashi said told a news conference earlier Monday that Mr. Abe could be arrested at any moment.

Mr. Takahashi said investigators had searched Mr. Abe's two residences and several offices.

The case poses a serious threat to the government of Mr. Miyazawa, who faces a testing time in parliament this month following opposition demands to summon his former personal secretary over the 1989 recruit "shares for favours" scandal.

The regular 150-day session of parliament starts on Jan. 24, with approval of the 1992 budget now threatened by the rising tide of scandal.

Prosecutors focusing on the flow of funds to Mr. Abe from Kyowa Company, a land developer and manufacturer of building beams, had concluded that 80 million yen (\$65,000) out of a total contribution of about 500 million yen (\$4 million) would be regarded as bribe money, Mr. Takahashi said.

Mr. Abe, in his capacity as development minister, was suspected of having leaked inside information to Kyowa on new road projects and the location of planned major developments including a stadium in Hokkaido.

Kyowa went bankrupt last year and company executives have since been under investigation for involvement in fraudulent land deals, the deputy chief prosecutor said.

In November 1990 Kyowa applied for a 190 billion yen (\$1.5 billion) debt-servicing plan with the Tokyo District Court, the Teikoku Data Bank Credit Agency said.

By May 1991, the company was forced to declare bankruptcy, the agency said.

Lithuania marks first anniversary of crackdown

VILNISU, Lithuania (AP) — With tears of their dead and pride in the freedom they finally won, Lithuanians gathered by the thousands early Monday to mark the first anniversary of a bloody Soviet crackdown meant to crush their drive for independence.

Fourteen people were killed in the first hours of Jan. 13, 1991, when Soviet army and KGB troops moved to seize the city's television tower from Lithuanian nationalists.

At 2 a.m. (0000 GMT) Monday, the exact time of the assault one year ago, President Vytautas Landsbergis spoke from a window to thousands of people gathered amid bonfires in front of parliament. His remarks also were televised nationwide.

"We did what we had to do. We fought for what we had to fight," he said simply.

"We could not have done it without the ordinary people who came out to support us when we called to them. Now we are rebuilding our state and we are rebuilding it together."

But he sounded cautious about divisions threatening the country, suffering from rapidly climbing

prices and shortages of basic goods. He asked compatriots to bear in mind the sacrifice of those killed.

"We will have to cross some dark, dark places," he warned. "Some will try to push us from the correct path. Perhaps it will involve difficulties in the economy and perhaps it will be only some politicians who will try to take advantage of the situation for their own interests."

But he added: "I believe no one can push us from the right path."

The early morning gathering was the highlight of two days of observances recalling the January violence in Lithuania and neighbouring Latvia.

They, along with Estonia, were the first republics to win independence from the Soviet Union, now the Commonwealth of Independent States. The Baltics do not belong to the Commonwealth.

"The Soviet world was defeated here," Mr. Landsbergis had told a special session of parliament Sunday. "Its virus was burned out of the hearts of the defenders of the homeland."

Japan apologises to wartime Korean 'comfort women'

TOKYO (R) — Japan Monday made its first apology to tens of thousands of Korean women forced to work as prostitutes for the former imperial army 50 years ago.

It also admitted for the first time that the imperial army was involved in the recruitment and management of the women. Previously, it had maintained it had no evidence of this and that the operation had been run privately.

"The Japanese government has many times expressed its deep soul-searching and regret over the unbearable suffering and sorrow inflicted in the past on the Korean people," a statement by Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said.

"On this occasion, we would like to express our heartfelt apology and soul-searching to those women who had a bitter hardship beyond description as comfort women for the soldiers."

The statement came days before Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa is to visit Seoul. A South Korean group representing the "comfort women" vowed last week to disrupt his visit unless he apologised and agreed to pay compensation.

Mr. Kato said Mr. Miyazawa would admit and might apologise

for the Japanese army's forced recruitment of the comfort women when he met South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo Thursday and Friday.

Japan had long maintained that private entrepreneurs, not the military, were responsible for forcing between 100,000 and 200,000 women, some 80 per cent of them Korean, to serve as prostitutes for soldiers stationed in China and South East Asia until 1945.

"I think it is undeniable that the former Japanese army was involved in some form in the recruitment of these women and management of their facilities," Mr. Kato said.

"The Japanese government is determined that such a thing will never be repeated and will continue to hold fast to the position of a peaceful country and work hard to build new relations between Korea and Japan for the future," he said.

Tokyo's decision to acknowledge one of Japan's darkest wartime legacies — after years of denials — came after a newspaper revealed the existence of classified army documents disclosing the military's role in forced prostitution.

COLUMN 80001

Mick Jagger becomes a father again

LONDON (R) — Rolling Stones singer Mick Jagger became a father for the fifth time Sunday when his Texan wife Jerry Hall gave birth to a daughter in a private London hospital. A spokesman for Jagger, 47, and Hall, 34, said they were delighted with the baby, named Georgia May Ayesha. The couple have two other children, Elizabeth, aged seven, and James, six. Jagger also has two adult daughters, Jade and Karis, from previous relationships. "Mick and Jerry are delighted," press spokeswoman Sarah Nere-liffe said. "The baby weighs 7 pounds 13 ounces (3.5 kilograms) and was born late this afternoon. Mother and daughter are doing well. It was an easy delivery. Miss Hall was resting in the hospital this evening, she said. The couple were keeping the location secret."

France to close Paris woods to fight prostitution

PARIS (R) — French Interior Minister Philippe Marchand announced Sunday he was closing part of the Bois de Boulogne park on the edge of Paris to combat prostitution. "Certain roads in the woods will be closed to traffic at night," he said in a radio interview. "I have on my desk a map of the Bois de Boulogne and it is horrifying the number of prostitutes, men and women, who are there — more than 500... This can no longer be tolerated."

14-year-old preferred jail to husband freed

CATRO (AP) — An appeals court has overturned the jail sentence of a 14-year-old girl who said she manoeuvred her way into prison to get away from the 77-year-old man her brother forced her to marry. The court acquitted Inaam Hussein Abdullah after accepting her claim that she pretended to be selling narcotics to escape life with her husband. A primary court had convicted the girl of drug trafficking and sentenced her to 10 years' imprisonment. The girl told the court her brother forced her to marry a well-to-do milkman aged 77. The minimum marrying age for girls under Egyptian law is 16, although it is often violated especially in rural areas. Fed up with her matrimonial life, the girl said she obtained a piece of hashish and went to a police station in the Giza district south of Cairo to confess that she was involved in the narcotics trade. She said she wanted to go to prison and join her mother, convicted on a narcotics charge, and get away from her husband. Police sent her to the district attorney, who ordered her to stand trial.

Vandals deface Paris metro station

PARIS (R) — Vandals armed with paint-sprayed defaced Paris's most elegant underground metro station in a 10-minute raid that caused damage worth thousands of dollars, a spokesman for the Paris Transport Authority said. The vandals broke into the Louvre-Rivoli Station at 3 a.m. and covered the walls, historic statues and replicas of exhibits from France's National Art Museum with obscene graffiti, he said.

Millionaire charged with setting up murder of wife

ATLANTA (AP) — A millionaire has been charged with arranging to have a rose-bearing gunman kill his estranged wife, authorities said. James Sullivan, 50, faces federal charges of making long-distance telephone calls to arrange for the slaying of his wife, Lita. The indictment announced Friday by U.S. attorney Joe Whitley focuses on the telephone calls as a way to bring the case under federal jurisdiction. Murder charges are normally prosecuted by states. Mrs. Sullivan was killed in the foyer of her Atlanta townhouse on Jan. 13, 1987, hours before a scheduled hearing in the couple's divorce. She and Sullivan lived at separate addresses in Atlanta at the time. Sullivan later moved to Palm Beach, Florida. Authorities declined to suggest a motive for the slaying. But a federal affidavit in the case has said that Sullivan was in danger of losing his \$3.9 million Palm Beach mansion to foreclosure, and Mrs. Sullivan had refused to sign a \$1 million note to pay off the mortgage.

Zhelev leads in Bulgarian elections, run-off on Jan. 19

SOFIA (AP) — Incumbent Zhelyu Zhelev fell short of an outright victory in Bulgaria's first popular presidential elections and faces a runoff against a lawyer backed by the former Communists, partial results showed Monday.

The outcome was disappointing for Mr. Zhelev, a 56-year-old philosopher and former dissident, and the governing Union of Democratic Forces that supported him. He will run against Velko Valkanov in the Jan. 19 runoff.

The presidency is largely a ceremonial post, so the balloting is seen in part as referendum on the economic policies of the candidates' parties.

The union, which came to power in October parliamentary elec-

tions, is pledging to quickly privatise state-owned commercial and industrial sectors.

The Socialists, while also favouring economic reforms, prefer a slower transition to a market economy. The Socialists are the heirs to the Communist Party that was ousted in 1990 and dissolved.

With about 80 per cent of votes counted, Mr. Zhelev held 44.14 per cent, Mr. Valkanov 30.40 per cent and Georges Ganchev 16.93 per cent, an official of the Central Election Commission announced.

The other 18 candidates got insignificant portions of the vote. The Socialists ran no candidate in Sunday's election but urged their backers to support Mr. Valkanov. Mr. Ganchev, now out of the running, declined to back either Zhelev or Valkanov.

It's campaign season — and it's in vogue to bash Bush

liberal.

"The new 'L' word is 'loser,'" Sen. Kerrey said, accusing Mr. Bush of surrendering America's economy to the whims of the Japanese.

Sen. Kerrey took to the airwaves with a tough-talking ad in which he says, "we're becoming a low-wage nation, and all George Bush does is go to Japan and beg for a few concessions."

Adding to the anti-Bush chorus is Mr. Buchanan.

"They've struggled in depression for three years," Mr. Buchanan says of New Hampshire voters. "And the president? He broke his promise not to raise taxes and he doesn't care."

Democrats trying to pin the anemic economy on Mr. Bush can help galore from Mr. Buchanan, who can't complete a speech without criticising "Mr. Bush's recession."

Meanwhile, President George Bush's campaign manager said Sunday Mr. Bush's health is good and will not be an issue in the presidential campaign.

Secretary of Commerce Robert Moshbacher, asked in a television interview if he was concerned about the president's health because of his collapse from stomach flu in Japan or if it would become a political issue, said, "no, not at all."

"...He's about as healthy a man as I know — vigorous and energetic, and his getting the flu is no different than your getting the flu or my getting the flu," Mr. Moshbacher, who will take over as the campaign's general manager this week, said in a Cable News Network interview.

Mr. Bush, 67, was taken ill during a banquet at Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's residence Wednesday in Tokyo, his last

stop during a four-nation Asian tour.

Some political commentators said they believed that television footage of Mr. Bush collapsing and showing the president lying at the feet of Japan's prime minister could do serious harm to his bid for re-election in November.

Doctors later diagnosed a bout of stomach flu and pronounced Mr. Bush fit enough to carry out a shortened official programme in Japan Thursday before flying home Friday.